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VOP: 'ARAFAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM CUBAN OFFICIALS

NC021647 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1515 GMT 2 Apr 80 NC

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar received the Cuban ambassador to Lebanon this afternoon. Our correspondent has learned that the ambassador handed brother Abu 'Ammar a message from Cuban officials.

VOP: 'ARAFAT WELCOMES FORMATION OF EGYPTIAN NATIONAL FRONT

NC030826 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 3 Apr 80 NC

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last night met with Lt Gen Sa'd ad-Din ash-Shadhili, the secretary general of the Egyptian National Front. They discussed current developments in the Arab area.

Brother Abu 'Ammar welcomed the birth of the Egyptian National Front as a positive step toward frustration of As-Sadat's conspiracies.

VOL: NEW PLO OFFICE ESTABLISHED IN AL-MASNA'

NC021555 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 2 Apr 80 NC

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon correspondent reports that the PLO has established an office in the Al-Masna' area in order to facilitate the entry of its members into Lebanese territory.

Our correspondent adds that the office is directly controlled by Syrians and Palestinians. To date, hundreds of persons, as well as war materiel, have been able to enter. Smuggling to and from Syria is also conducted through this office.

SENEGAL DECIDES TO GRANT DIPLOMATIC STATUS TO PLO

AB030805 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 2 Apr 80 AB

[Text] Here is a communique issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: The Senegalese Government has decided to grant diplomatic status at the ambassadorial level with all the customary privileges attached to it, to the office of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Dakar.

By this decision the government of the Republic of Senegal intends to renew and strengthen its support for the PLO which is the true representative of the Palestinian people, (?invested with the inalienable rights of the country).

This decision by the Senegalese Government coincides with the week of solidarity with national liberation movements which is being organized by the [few words indistinct]. Tomorrow's meeting, which starts at 1100, will be presided over by Mr Ousmane Camara, minister of higher education and member of the Political Bureau of the Socialist Party.

CORRECTION TO SADDAM HUSAYN'S SPEECH AT PAN-ARAB CONFERENCE

Following is a correction to the item entitled "Iraqi President Speaks at Pan-Arab Conference," published in the 31 March Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT, A 4:

Last paragraph last two lines should read: ...they were able. As friends, the Soviets have only to offer weapons and see how we indeed quarrel. We have fought well, although some kinds of ammunition have run out.

KUWAIT

PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON FRENCH ARMS SALES, MIDEAST

LD2911134 Kuwait KUNA in English 1012 GMT 29 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Paris, March 29, KUNA--Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah announced Friday night that the Kuwaiti Air Force is equipped with French Mirage fighter planes and that Kuwait has obtained a French nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes.

In an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, Shaykh Sa'd said the number of French planes is less than estimated by some quarters. He gave no specific figure.

He stated that security of the Gulf region is the responsibility of its countries without any intervention from external forces and called for a unified Arab military and political strategy.

The crown prince told the radio that there would be no settlement for the Middle East problem without direct American pressure on Israel. He expressed belief that this pressure is impossible if Arab countries could not end their differences and direct their oil and political pressures to serve their interests.

Shaykh Sa'd hailed the recent French stand on the Middle East problem as announced during the recent visit to some Arab countries by French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and said that France's recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination had encouraged the German and British Governments to take a serious and quick initiative on the Middle East at a time when the U.S. is in no position to act due to the Presidential elections campaign.

He added that the American administration is retracting from its policies on the Middle East but said that the situation would become clear pending results of negotiations on autonomy for the Palestinians due to end on May 26.

Speaking on the same programme, the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-Aziz Husayn stressed the importance of the Euro-Arab dialogue which he said had stumbled for many reasons and that Kuwait and France started last summer a new initiative to put this dialogue on the right track.

Regarding the Middle East crisis, the minister stated that Kuwait had opposed the Camp David agreements because of their failure to bring about peace to the region and their isolation of Egypt from the rest of the Arab world as such hindering any attempt to reach a just settlement for the crisis.

Minister Husayn expressed hope that the American people would feel the harm caused by the Zionist exploitation of the American administration and would exert pressure on their government to adopt an impartial stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He urged the U.S. to realise the importance of the U.N. which he said must have a major role in the settlement of the crisis and achievement of a just peace in the Middle East.

MINISTER DENIES PURCHASE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR

LD301652 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Mar 80 LD

[Text] 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, minister of state for cabinet affairs, has said that Kuwaiti usage of a nuclear reactor for civil purposes is theoretically being considered by specialists and that this study "is still in its preliminary stages."

The minister was commenting on highlights of an interview given to Radio Monte Carlo by Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, which were published by the local press yesterday. The interview gave the impression that Kuwait had signed a contract with France for the purchase of a reactor. The minister said that the matter of building a nuclear reactor in Kuwait "was not discussed with any supplier." The minister added "there are important considerations in our country which call for this matter to be the subject of a deep and slow study at the same time."

PRIME MINISTER VIEWS RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA, IRAQ

LD311148 Kuwait KUNA in English 1012 GMT 31 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, March 31, (KUNA)--Gulf states should make a unified effort to preserve their common good and prosperity, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah said Monday. Kuwait is now looking forward to parliamentary life after all constitutional gaps had been closed, he said.

In an interview with the Algerian press, the crown prince said Kuwait had supported the national charter presented by Iraq as a positive step to pull the Arab nation out of its present stagnation. The charter would enable the Arabs to regain their lost solidarity and push forward efforts for liberation, Shaykh Sa'd added.

In his statements to EL MOUDJAHID and ASH-SHA'B newspapers published Monday, the crown prince said Kuwait is concerned with the development of relations with Algeria in all fields. The crown prince said Kuwait will spare no effort in playing a positive role to ensure stability and welfare for the Gulf region. A Gulf collective role to realize those objectives is of paramount importance, he said.

Shaykh Sa'd said the committee formed to revise the constitution will soon complete its assignment and we will make use of our previous experiment in practicing parliamentary lie. We are keen that an atmosphere of consultancy will prevail over the community, he added. We will provide all opportunities for our people to make an effective participation and cooperate in building Kuwait within the framework of our conceptions, he said.

Shaykh Sa'd said the Kuwaiti women had always maintained a special status and occupied a place of prominence in our social structure. We will remain proud of our women who performed, in silence, a great role in the service of the community, the crown prince added. It is now time to show practical and effective appreciation to the role of women, he said.

Commenting on border demarcation with Iraq, Shaykh Sa'd said, a sense of cooperation and our fraternal relations would lead to the solution of that problem. He condemned all forms of foreign intervention in the Gulf region. The responsibility of defending this region falls on its own people, he added.

This region is of vital importance to the world at large, and it is our duty to keep it out of the big powers' struggle, the crown prince said. Shaykh Sa'd said the European countries are capable of playing a prominent role in realizing a lasting and just solution for the Middle East problem. For many reasons the Europeans are now called upon to do just that, he said.

Since the days of General de Gaulle, France had maintained a distinct role regarding the just cause of the Palestinians, the crown prince added. But on the other hand, we strongly believe that the final solution to that problem remains in the hands of the Arabs who should unify their efforts to regain their land and dignity, he said.

Commenting on the problems confronting the Third World, Shaykh Sa'd said the Gulf-European dialogue is a 'tributary' of the wider European-Arab encounter and not a substitute for it. The Gulf dialogue with Europe does not contradict that of the Arabs. That dialogue will not affect our support and cooperation with the Third World, the crown prince added.

On bilateral relations with Algeria, Shaykh Sa'd expressed satisfaction with the growth of mutual cooperation. We feel a deep sense of appreciation of the Algerian Republic, he said.

BULGARIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER DELIVERS ZHIVKOV'S MESSAGE

AU301937 Sofis BTA in English 1847 GMT 30 Mar 80 AU

[Text] Kuwait, March 30 (BTA special correspondent)--Mr Petur Mladenov, Bulgaria's foreign minister, who is on an official visit here, was received today by the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, to whom he handed a message from Mr Todor Zhivkov, president of the State Council of Bulgaria. At the meeting, which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere, some issues of bilateral relations and topical international problems were discussed.

Mr Mladenov was also received by the crown prince and prime minister of Kuwait, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah. They discussed certain questions of bilateral cooperation, especially in the field of economy, and exchanged views on international problems.

At the official talks of Mr Mladenov and Shaykh as-Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Kuwait, the two sides stated the successful development of bilateral relations in the different spheres of life. It was pointed out that the exchange of views between Bulgaria and Kuwait contribute to the process of the two countries' better acquaintance, to further expansion and deepening of reciprocally profitable cooperation, to the establishment of positive trends in international relations in the interest of peace and security in the world.

The two ministers expressed satisfaction with the favorable development of political relations between Bulgaria and Kuwait and agreed on their furthering.

Special attention was paid to economic cooperation. Discussed were the possibilities for joint projects in agriculture, the food industry, construction, finances, tourism, health care, transport and joint appearance on third markets.

Mr Mladenov and Shaykh as-Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir exchanged views on international questions of mutual interest. They expressed concern over the exacerbation of the international situation and declared themselves in support of detente and disarmament.

The Kuwaiti side assessed highly Bulgaria's position on the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian problem. Discussed were also the topics of Southeast Asia developments and the events in the Persian Gulf, and security and cooperation in Europe.

KUWAITI PAPER EXPECTS RIYADH TALKS ON PDRY-OMAN DISPUTE

LD011350 Kuwait KUNA in English 1056 GMT 1 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, April 1 (KUNA)--A quadruple Arab conference may be held in Riyadh this month in an attempt to reach a new settlement for old unresolved disputes between South Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported here Tuesday.

AS-SIYASAH quoting unidentified sources said that the President of South Yemen 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il will visit the Saudi capital in the second half of this month upon an invitation from King Khalid. The paper added that talks are expected to be held between Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of North Yemen in the presence of the Saudi monarch.

Meanwhile, it was officially announced in Saudi Arabia Monday that King Khalid had extended an invitation to President Isma'il to visit Saudi Arabia. The date of the visit has not been fixed yet.

Several members in the Arab League had previously attempted, but failed, to settle the dispute between Aden and Muscat which had erupted since South Yemen gained independence in 1967. These two countries in the south of the Arabian Peninsula have not exchanged relations since the government of Aden supported a leftist revolution that had been staged against the Omani Government in the province of south Dhofar in 1960.

The South Yemeni president will visit the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, AS-SIYASAH said.

President Isma'il visited Kuwait in [word indistinct] but did not visit the other four countries since his accession to the presidency in 1978.

PDRY

BULGARIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES 29 MAR FOR TALKS

LD291556 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] Comrade Army Gen Dobri Dzhurov, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Politburo and minister of national defense of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, arrived in Aden this afternoon for a visit to Democratic Yemen which will last for several days at the invitation of the Political Bureau and minister of defense.

On arrival at Aden international airport, the Bulgarian army general and minister of defense was received by brother Col 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar; brother Ahmad Salim Ubayd, member of the Central Committee, deputy minister of defense and director of the Political Department of the armed forces; the Bulgarian ambassador in Aden; several senior officers of the armed forces; and a number of ambassadors of the socialist countries in Aden.

Meets Prime Minister

LD311543 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the presidium of the People's Supreme Assembly and prime minister, has received Comrade Dobri Dzhurov, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Politburo and minister of defense of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, with whom he reviewed international developments of common interest and important events in the Arab region. They also discussed the development of cooperation and friendship between Democratic Yemen and People's Bulgaria.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad gave an account of the achievements and progressive transformations realized by Democratic Yemen's working class in implementing the Yemen Socialist Party's [YSP] plan and the resolutions of its first congress. He also touched on Democratic Yemen's constructive activities in strengthening its foreign relations on the basis of the firm foundations of its foreign policy. The brother prime minister expressed appreciation for the solidarity assistance provided by the Bulgarian Communist Party and the friendly Bulgarian Government and people to our people. He said that the development and strengthening of relations with the People's Republic of Bulgaria had aroused our satisfaction and our people's appreciation.

The Bulgarian defense minister spoke about the successes achieved by the Bulgarian people in developing socialist structures. He stressed that the People's Republic of Bulgaria will continue giving its practical solidarity and assistance to the Arab people's struggle to achieve their legitimate objectives, including the return of the Palestinian people to their country and their self-determination. The Bulgarian comrade minister of defense praised our people's achievements and conveyed to the brother prime minister the cordial greetings of Comrade Todor Zhivkov, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The meeting was attended by brother Colonel 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar, candidate member of the YSP Political Bureau and minister of defense; Lt Col Ahmad Salim Ubayd, member of the YSP Central Committee, deputy minister of defense and director of the Political Department of the Defense Ministry; and Sulayman Nasir Muhammad, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and secretary of the Department of Security and Defense at the secretariat of the Central Committee.

YAR

MINISTERS INTERVIEWED ON ARMS POLICIES, OTHER ISSUES

LD290909 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 28 Mar pp 21-23 LD

[Farid al-Khatib report on his visit to YAR and meeting with Foreign Minister Dr Hasan Makki, Information Minister Yahya al-'Arashi, Presidential Advisory Council member 'Abdallah al-Asnaj and Deputy Prime Minister for Internal Affairs Mujahid Abu Shawarib]

[Excerpts] San'a'--There are many security and military roadblocks in San'a' nowadays. At night the Yemeni capital seems like a ghost town or a desolate museum. I was stopped at six checkpoints on my way from the modern Ramadi Hotel to the Dar al-Hamad Hotel, a short distance considering the time it takes to get from the Ramadi Hotel, which is a prefabricated structure built abroad, to the Dar al-Hamad Hotel, which was built by one of the ruling family's imams long ago.

The visitor to San'a' is struck by the numerous slogans raised on triumphal arches over the streets and on walls, particularly the traditional slogan: "Yemeni unity is our most important demand." Two highways are now being constructed in order to end Yemen's isolation and link it with its two neighbors. The first road extends from (Midi) in the center to Aden and the other from Sa'dah in the north to Najran and Saudi Arabia.

In the middle of the political road President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih stands bewildered, signalling left while moving right and vice versa. He expressed this situation in the letter which he sent to President Carter. According to informed diplomatic sources, the letter, which was delivered by U.S. Ambassador George Lane, said: "We are against communism. Last year we fought them--in Aden. The arms package you have given us was not complete, so we got arms from the Soviets under an arms deal. However, this does not mean that we are tied to the Soviet Union. We will wait and see what the United States will do to help us."

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister told AL-HAWADITH: "We cannot say that we are pursuing a new policy. We are emphasizing an old principled policy which Yemen has been pursuing since before the revolution--the policy of positive neutrality. We are diversifying our sources of arms. We have received arms from People's Republic of China, Bulgaria, the Soviet Union, Spain, Belgium and the United States. We buy arms not to stockpile them, but to meet our need for them. This need is increasing the world over, particularly in the Middle East, for reasons in which Yemen has not been instrumental but of which it has been the victim. These reasons are the result of colonial legacies and Zionist plots that are not confined to Palestine. Every Arab area is exposed to harm and sabotage and every part of the Arab nation is looking for security, and in the manner it feels it can achieve it.

"Our arms are not for the purpose of committing aggression or imposing our will on others nor for one-up-manship or to take advantage of international conflict. We can achieve security by having good relations with everybody and by trying to develop these relations and obtaining the development, arms and food we need by available means and according to our financial capabilities and relations."

Information Minister Yahya al-'Arashi said: "We seek the friendship of everybody and peace for everybody. We do not side with one Arab state against another. Let whoever is angry with our domestic or foreign policy be angry. The Soviet Union knows that we will not be its lackeys. The United States also knows that we will not be in its pocket or in the pocket of any Arab state. Every Yemeni regime must approach the people and have a discussion with them. This is our tradition."

"We are determined to give a new lesson in the Arab arena whereby the two superpowers will woo us, but we will not be in the pocket of either of them. Our importance will grow and neither of them will interfere in our affairs on a large scale. Both the Soviet Union and the United States prefer not to lose us because of our strategic position and the density of our population, which totals 8 million. During our dispute with the southern sector--the 1979 November war--the Soviet Union was eager to reassure us that it would not intervene--in the war--and the United States was also eager not to interfere in our affairs when it concluded the arms deal with North Yemen."

'Abdallah al-Asnaj, member of the advisory council to the president, said: "There are two main trends in the country, one advocating equality in Arab relations--that is, cooperation with the states of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf, including Iraq, which stands with its capabilities and clarity of vision against Arab and international complexities. It may be in the interest of this cooperation for Iraq, Yemen and Saudi Arabia to be the main states. The other trend seeks to have Yemen join the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front group, namely the rejectionist bloc which is close to Moscow.

"Regarding the achievement of national unity, there are parties in Aden which seek unity provided no faction is excluded and equality is established between the citizens in the north and south and all causes of anxiety and nonreassurance in both sectors of Yemen are eliminated. The factions concerned in the north are the Nasirites, the Ba'thists and the revolutionary fighters who are affiliated to the National Democratic Front. The factions concenred in the south are the Liberation Front, the army and security force elements which sought refuge [in North Yemen] at different times following the assassination of former President Qahtan ash-Sha'bi up to the liquidation of Salim Rubay' 'Ali, in addition to the Ba'thists, of whom 400 are imprisoned in Aden.

"Moscow has influence and interests in the northern sector which the Americans want removed. The reverse is also true. The most important thing for Yemen is not to become a policeman protecting the interests of either of them because a small state cannot stay out of danger if it is tied to a big power."

Dr Makki, who received AL-HAWADITH at his office in the Foreign Ministry, canceled his previous engagements and transferred all telephone calls to his secretary after our dialog with him had deepened and broadened.

AL-HAWADITH: When the two superpowers wrestle, each one of them pressures its friends to side with it on the basis of the maxim: "Whoever is not with me is against me." How can North Yemen pursue a policy of nonalinement during the current phase?

Makki: Our nonalinement policy is not based on idealism, but on realism. We are eager to befriend and cooperate with everybody. We reject and resist all kinds of pressures to make us alined. We refuse to have our good or excellent relations used as a means to make us alined. Meanwhile, we stand with the Arab nation and Arab issues in general. The Arabs always help Yemen. However, we have interests and our neighbors have interests and the other friends and brothers should respect our interests.

AL-HAWADITH: What is your country's attitude toward Arab oil?

Makki: Can an Arab with a living conscience imagine that North Yemen, which is in the heart of the Arab oil area, buys the oil it needs from the free market at fantastic prices? Arabism is one thing and commerce is another. Northern Yemen is self-reliant in many things. We are grateful to our Arab brothers for the enormous aid they give us; but if you were to compare the prices of oil byproducts in our country with those in neighboring areas and even in the world, you would realize the enormity of the sacrifices our people have to make in their livelihood in order to obtain fuel.

AL-HAWADITH: Does Saudi Arabia support the achievement of unity between the two Yemens?

Makki: We do not see what interest Saudi Arabia has in opposing unity. In principle, the Saudis are interested only in their internal affairs and they extend aid whenever they are asked. If they are not asked, they do not try to impose their guidance on any state.

AL-HAWADITH: The March 1979 Kuwait statement stipulated that unity be achieved within a maximum of 6 months. What has happened?

Makki: The time limit was found to be impractical and inapplicable.

Deputy Prime Minister for Internal Affairs Mujahid Abu Shawarib received me at his office in the building housing the prime minister's office.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the latest news on unity between the two Yemens?

Abu Shawarib: The achievement of national unity in the north would pave the way to the attainment of unity between the two sectors, but imperialism is always playing its game.

AL-HAWADITH: Some observers believe that the acquisition of Soviet arms by the army has placed the army above the tribes.

Abu Shawarib: The tribes have nothing to do with the arms the army has acquired. This is the attitude of the people when they are satisfied with their political leadership. The state's policy is that we must not mortgage our will with the East or West; we must obtain arms in the quantities we need. It is better to diversify sources of arms. Where they come from is not important; what is important is the hand that holds the weapons and safeguards them.

At the Information Ministry AL-HAWADITH put the following question to Information Minister al-'Arashi: Some foreign newspapers accuse you of starting to incline toward the Eastern bloc in your relations and claim that you might be abandoning your neutrality?

Al-'Arashi: We are engaged in a dialog at present. If we do not agree, we will put matters to a general referendum. If the people opt for communism, they can have it. However, dealings with Arab and foreign states will be on the basis of the charter after it is approved.

AL-HAWADITH: Who pays for the Soviet arms?

Al-'Arashi: The price of Soviet arms is moderate. They are bought by installments. Whoever wishes to help can do so by presenting aid to the state's treasury. We will use this aid to build a school or train an expert or a pilot.

AL-HAWADITH: Is this Yemen's new policy?

Al-'Arashi: Yes.

Al-Asnaj received AL-HAWADITH at his office in the presidential palace.

AL-HAWADITH: What are the faults in the American arms deal?

Al-Asnaj: The Americans admit that their arms are very expensive and the quantities they gave do not meet the requirements of defense and security and lacked ammunition and the necessary spare parts. Riyadh admitted that the arms do not meet the required purpose, because the delivery program is slow, the shipments are incomplete and maintenance is not guaranteed. All these matters have promoted the Yemeni leadership to turn to the Soviet Union to cover the deficiency in armament.

AL-HAWADITH: Why was the arrival of some F-5 planes delayed?

Al-Asnaj: It was delayed because Yemen did not have the hangers, but eventually all the planes arrived at San'a' airport from At-Ta'if airport.

AL-HAWADITH: Why did Washington deal indirectly with San'a' in the question of the arms deal?

Al-Asnaj: The Americans prefer to deal with whoever is paying for the arms and not with those who are going to use them.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the volume of Arab aid to North Yemen?

Al-Asnaj: Arms are one thing and development is another. Saudi Arabia pays to cover the budget deficit and to finance the 5-year plan projects. Iraq has given $300 million over a period of 5 years to aid the development plan projects. The UAE and Kuwait have also given aid to implement development projects, particularly in the health, roads, education and agriculture sectors. But for a gallon of gasoline on the local market the Yemeni citizen pays a higher price than the price in Britain, bearing in mind that the oil consumption in the country is not high.

AL-HAWADITH: Is it true that the tribes' power has weakened and that the army's power is now superior to that of the tribes?

Al-Asnaj: The Hashid and Bakil tribes are experiencing a state of unprecedented division now that a tribesman has acquired wealth and does not need the chieftain. This has led to a disruption of the balance with the army.

AL-HAWADITH: What influence does the Ba'th Party have in the country?

Al-Asnaj: The Ba'thists do not play a principal role in the country. They are either abroad or in prison.

PRESIDENT SALIH RECEIVES JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR

JN311513 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received at his office at the Confederation of Yemen Development Associations at 1100 today Jordanian Ambassador in San'a' Salah ash-Shar' on the occasion of the end of his duty. Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih presented the Jordanian ambassador with the Ma'rib medal in appreciation for his work to bolster and develop fraternal relations between the two fraternal states.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES WRITTEN MESSAGE FROM SAUDI KING

JN311512 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received at his office at the Confederation of Yemen Development Associations at 1000 today, Saudi Ambassador in San'a' Tirad al-Harithi, who conveyed to the president a written message from His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

'ARAB FUNDS MUST BE USED IN DEVELOPMENT, NOT PLOTS'

JN011858 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Apr 80 JN

[Text] The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH says in today's editorial: "The enormous funds some Arab states possess must be used in helping other Arabs in the vast field of development and in building the intrinsic Arab power which can face all foreign aggressions and plots not in conspiracies, acts of sabotage and hirelings and agents.

The paper adds: The idea of subjugating poor peoples, containing nationalist regimes and using funds in exporting plots and financing coups is now antiquated. Some Arab countries may be poor, but they know what they want without being misled by false propaganda, temptations, outbiddings and void slogans. They can no longer be deceived by attempts to exploit their poverty and need for funds for development to place them under any form of tutelege.

ATH-THAWRAH says: This brings us to the main point; Arab funds must be used in developing and enhancing love and fraternity among Arab regimes regardless of their different systems and regimes. After all, the final aim is to achieve equality among the Arabs so they will be equal in social justice and meeting their daily urgent needs and also before the law. It is indeed a shame to see on the one hand Arab peoples who are facing the difficulties of growth and development and on the other Arab peoples whose leaders have so much money that they do not know how to use it properly.

The paper concludes: We do hope that Arab regimes now know that the time of reckless ambitions at the expense of the Arab peoples, of plotting against the centers of national leadership and of attempting to enforce tutelege and dictate policies on other Arab capitals has gone. That time has gone because it has led to many defeats.

Plotting Decried

JN012105 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Apr 80 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] One of the main characteristics of our country's foreign policy at this important juncture is clarify of vision. Our dealings with brothers and friends are governed by the basic principles of fraternal and humanitarian relations based on mutual confidence and respect, noninterference in other peoples' affairs and adherence to the policy of positive neutrality and nonalinement. This is one of the important gains made by our people under the wise national leadership of brother leader 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Thus, Yemeni policy is one of higher values and ideals. It is not like the policy followed by some Arab states which is two-faced; a face for showing off in the morning and a face for plotting at night. It is not a policy which is outwardly merciful but inwardly malicious. It is a policy which is outwardly and inwardly based on honesty, fraternity, love, national and pan-Arab reform and faith in the just causes of mankind.

Had our country and other poor Arab countries been spared aggression by others, and had the Arab regimes stopped conspiring against one another, all the poor Arab countries--despite their difficult circumstances--would have become the mainstay of security and stability in the Arab homeland. They would have been an indivisible part of a real Arab power, which no one would then belittle. At any rate, plotting, illegitimate interference and creation of hardships and disturbances will never shake or undermine the position of the poor peoples.

Therefore, the great Arab wealth and the enormous funds in foreign banks must be used to develop the Arab homeland, to achieve the prosperity of all Arabs and to establish security and stability in all the poor and rich Arab countries, on the basis that all Arabs are equal with regard to life's basic needs and feeling of reassurance so that we can become a real power. This alone would enable us to devise the right method to face our main enemy--Israel--to confront all plots against the Arab nation and to achieve real victory for all our crucial national issues.

Using the great Arab wealth and enormous funds to [words indistinct] in the Arab homeland and to weaken and undermine Arab nationalist regimes is something which neither the human mind nor the religious can condone because we are only helping the enemies of our nation achieve their objectives.

The enormous Arab wealth and funds must be channeled toward real national building and comprehensive development throughout the Arab world. They must be used to serve pan-Arab objectives and interests. Right now, the most important pan-Arab objective is to achieve national accord in Lebanon, reconstruct that country and support the Palestinian revolution and the frontline states. This is how the enormous funds and assets should be used. Do we understand? Will we come to our senses? There is still great hope.

SHAH CONVALESCING FROM OPERATION; CANCER HAS SPREAD TO LIVER

NC021323 Paris AFP in English 1320 GMT 2 Apr 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, April 2, (AFP)--The shah's doctors have told him his cancer has spread to his liver, his spokesman said here today.

But the ousted Iranian monarch was optimistic that chemical therapy could keep the cancer under control, spokesman Bob Arnao said. The shah knew very well that the removal of his enlarged spleen a few days ago would not end his troubles.

Therapy with a mixture of six medicines was to resume in a week or ten days after the ex-shah had regained strength following his latest operation. He was convalescing very satisfactorily.

Mr Arnao said he sums up press reports about the American hostages in Tehran for the former shah every day because he is very concerned about their fate. He was not yet strong enough to read newspapers himself.

But he frequently gets out of bed to stroll on the floor of Al-Ma'adi Army Hospital reserved for him in the Egyptian capital, Mr Arnao said. The shah would theoretically be able to leave the hospital in less than a week.

GOVERNMENT MAY EXTEND 26 MAY DEADLINE FOR AUTONOMY TALKS

NC021540 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Apr 80 NC

[Text] On his arrival in India today, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said that Egypt will agree to extend the 26 May deadline for the autonomy talks if any indication of progress emertes in the situation on the part of the Israeli side. In a statement at Delhi airport, Dr Ghali referred to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's visit to India last week, saying he will explain Egypt's stand on the Middle East problem to Indian officials.

Indian officials have said that Dr Butrus Ghali is expected to hold official talks with the Indian minister of external affairs today. He will also meet with Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi and hand her a message from President Anwar as-Sadat.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN COMMENT ON ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT

NC022050 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Apr 80 NC

[Text] The Foreign Ministry official spokesman has commented as follows on the Israeli Foreign Ministry statement on the Egyptian People's Assembly resolution adopted yesterday regarding occupied Jerusalem:

1. The unanimous resolution of the People's Assembly reflects the pan-Arab [qawmi] stand in which the Egyptian Government and people believe. It also reflects what the president of the republic has stressed more than once from more than one place and forum, and from the Knesset itself on 20 November 1977. This is not a new stand.

2. The Egyptian People's Assembly resolution was based on and stressed firm legal principles, foremost of which is the basic principle of the inadmissibility of acquisition of land by war. This principle was outlined in the charter of the United Nations--of which Egypt and Israel are members--and in Security Council Resolution 242. This is also one of the basic principles of the current international system.

3. In rejecting all Israeli attempts and measures to change the legal status of Jerusalem and its geographic and demographic status. The resolution is in keeping with valid international agreements, particularly the fourth Geneva convention which safeguards civil rights in times of war and foreign occupation.

4. The people's assembly resolution is in keeping with the firm international unanimity in rejecting all illegal Israel measures in the occupied Palestinian land, especially Arab Jerusalem, and in considering these measures absolutely null and void.

5. The Israeli statement constitutes a defiance of international will, which respects the status of Arab Jerusalem as part of the occupied territory that must be returned, as it is an indivisible part of the West Bank which was occupied by Israel on 5 June 1967. The statement also reflects the Israeli Government's intention to continue to deny the historic and legal Arab rights to the city. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry denounces this statement because it defies and deviates from international law.

6. The Israeli stand expressed by the Israeli Foreign Ministry contravenes the stand adopted by the international community, represented by the UN General Assembly and Security Council, which unanimously adopted Resolution No 465 on 1 March 1980. It considers null and void the measures Israel is taking in all land under Israeli occupation, particularly the city of Jerusalem. At the same time the People's Assembly resolution expresses the view recognized by all nations within the framework of laws and principles that constitute the structure of international legality.

7. When the Camp David framework was issued, it was issued within the framework of this international legality and was based on the principles of the UN Charter, international law and the UN resolutions, above all Resolution 242, which does not differentiate between this part or that part of the occupied territories. All these territories must be returned to their owners and their foreign occupation status must be terminated.

In this context, the Camp David agreements, which were signed by and became binding on Egypt and Israel, cannot tolerate or allow anything that violates the framework of international legality or contradicts the firm principles of international law, such as is happening in Jeruslaem and the rest of the occupied territories.

8. Therefore, the Egyptian People's Assembly resolution, which has placed matters in their correct perspective, cannot harm the current negotiations, which have actually been harmed by the intransigence of the Israeli side and by Israel's illegal policy in the occupied territories, above all in Arab Jerusalem.

The annexation and colonial settlement of Jerusalem are a serious intervention and a clear violation of the Camp David agreements, as well as an unacceptable intervention in the talks on full autonomy. The Israeli Government would do better to abandon its intransigence and help promote these talks by agreeing to the formation of the security committee and accelerating the meetings of the other committees, instead of defending illegal situations and taking the Egyptian People's Assembly resolution as an excuse to express unacceptable stands.

9. The formula for a unified Jerusalem cannot exist, survive or be respected unless it is founded on a legal basis. That is, A) This formula cannot be accepted becasue it imposes Israeli policy on Arab Jerusalem; B) This formula cannot be accepted because it is the practical translations of the continuing Israeli occupation of Arab Jerusalem or a coverup for this occupation; C) This formula cannot be accepted because it disregards the Arab, Islamic and Christian legal and historic rights in the city.

10. Peace must be just. Just peace can only be established on the basis of respect for law and legality not on the basis of force, coercion, the annexation of lands by force, adopting unilateral measures and attempting to impose them on the world community. The Israeli Government must rise to the level of peace, the foundations of which were laid by a noble and bold initiative which aimed at justice, prosperity and stability for all.

11. Egypt will pursue its march toward peace while urging all peoples to raise their voices in defense of Jerusalem and the inalienable Arab rights in it, as the Egyptian People's Assembly did. It declares its firm stand that it will fulfill its obligations and continue the negotiations in accordance with what was agreed upon and signed on 26 March 1979 on the basis of reciprocity and reciprocal commitment by Israel. Peace is indivisible.

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL RECEIVES COPTIC DELEGATION

NC011202 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1127 GMT 1 Apr 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 April--Today at his office, Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil received a delegation of the Christian People's Council including Albert Barsum Salamah, Kamal Henry Badir, Istifan Basili, Hanna Narus and William Najib Sayfin.

It has been learned that the delegation expressed to Khalil the Egyptian Copts' gratitude to the government and their satisfaction with the wise measures it adopted to safeguard national unity and preserve it from the havoc of tamperers.

OIL MINISTER HILAL GIVES OIL PRODUCTION FIGURES

NC022230 Cairo MENA in English 2012 GMT 2 Apr 80 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, April 2--Egypt's petroleum production has reached 27,500 million tons annually compared with 7,500 million tons in 1973, and the petroleum sector has achieved a surplus of 1,650 million dollars in 1979 and is expected to reach between 1700 (1700) to 2000 (2000) million dollars in 1980, Minister of Petroleum Ahmad Hilal said today.

Hilal said that the oilfields in the Gulf of Suez were producing now about 600,000 (600,000) barrels daily.

The minister spoke about new discoveries of natural gas achieved by a French petroleum company in an offshore area north of Alexandria, and said that an assessment of this discovery was being done now and other test wells were being drilled.

OIL MINISTER CRITICIZES ISRAELI HANDLING OF OILFIELD

TA022113 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 2 Apr 80 TA

[Text] Egyptian Oil Minister Ahmad Hilal claims that Israel had caused damage to the 'Alma oilfields because it had used them way beyond their capacity. He told reporters in Cairo that Israel had produced about 38,000 barrels of oil from 'Alma a day, but that when it returned the oilfield to Egypt, production went down to 27,000 barrels. Now Cairo has decreased production by an addition 10,000 barrels, Hilal said that there are 30 oilwells in 'Alma, but three-quarters of them have already been closed. Egypt now intends to increase the daily production to 22,000 barrels by injecting water into the wells.

EGYPTIAN NATIONALIST FRONT LEADER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN BEIRUT

NC021807 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1540 GMT 2 Apr 80 NC

[Press Conference held by Gen Sa'd ad-Din ash-Shadhili, secretary general of the Egyptian Nationalist Front, on 2 April in Beirut--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] In your statement announcing the birth of the front, you said that the front includes all Egyptian forces outside Egypt that are hostile to the regime. Does the front in its present structure cover the entire political map of Egypt, and does it include all the basic political forces outside Egypt--Egyptian political forces, that is?

[Answer] In any concept, or in any front, it is impossible to include all the opposition. We can say, however, that the vast majority of the Egyptian opposition, whether outside Egypt or inside Egypt--by inside Egypt we mean the influential organizations or groups working in secret--all these forces have joined the front. We do not claim that the front includes 100 percent of the forces. This question may be addressed to anyone who, for example, says that he wishes to join the front. Joining the front is a voluntary matter and you cannot force particular groups or persons to join if they do not wish to do so. We want to stress that the front's bylaws state that the front is open to all strugglers and all organized groups wishing to join it, provided they commit themselves to the front's charter, its objectives and its bylaws.

[Question from representative of Soviet television in English] General, what is the position of the Egyptian National Front with respect to the Middle East policy of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries?

[Answer] The Egyptian Nationalist Front defines its friends and enemies in the light of attitudes and positions taken. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, we do not at all deny that in the past, before the 1973 October War, it played an important role in arming Arab forces, especially Egypt and Syria. Thanks to Soviet weapons, Egypt, Syria and other Arab states which joined that war after it was declared--the Soviet arms were the main and decisive factor in that war. [sentence as heard] We also see that since the 1973 war the Soviet attitude toward the Arab forces has been good. I am talking about the Arab world, not just Egypt, because there is disagreement between the Soviet Union and the Egyptian regime--I do not say Egypt. When I look at the Arab map I see that the Soviet Union continued to supply Syria and many other Arab states such as the Libyan Jamahiriyah, Algeria and Iraq with advanced weapons to help them defend themselves. This is on the military level. On the political level the Soviet Union has always supported us in international organizations and has voted in support of Arab rights. On the basis of these events and attitudes we consider the Soviet Union to be a friend and an ally in our struggle against Zionism and one who helps in the recovery of our territory.

[Question] General, where in the Arab world will the front's headquarters be?

[Answer] The front believes in Arab nationalism and its place is in all the Arab countries. It meets in a different country every time, especially the countries which recognize and support it.

[Question] How does the Egyptian Communist Party assess the formation of the front and what ideas does it have about future steps to expand and strengthen the front?

[Answer] I refer this question to [name indistinct].

[Unidentified person] Some sectors which constituted the regime's social and political base have broken away from the regime and joined the opposition. We thus raised a new slogan that we consider the attitude toward the agreement [presumably Camp David agreement] to be the main factor as far as joining (?the front) is concerned. We thus sought to contact other forces--that is other than the leftist forces--that called for and struggle for the defeat and abrogation of this agreement. We always found all the other patriotic forces responsive about joint work and joint struggle. There is no doubt that the creation of the front is one of the results. We do not deserve all the credit for this. All the other forces played a role, and General ash-Shadhili played an essential part in this respect.

[Question] What (?steps) does the front intend to take against the Egyptian regime?

[Answer] Perhaps you mean what are the priorities. Well, one aspect is organizational and also covers information and enlightenment. The opposition in Egypt is abundant but silent and unorganized. It is our duty to organize this opposition and enlighten it with good information until it becomes effective and reaches a position from which it can have an effect on this regime. When, through good enlightenment of the masses, the strength of organized opposition reaches a point that we deem suitable, we will have two solutions, or we will impose two solutions on As-Sadat. One is that there will be democracy--which he claims exists but we are not convinced--under which we could enter into a conflict with him. Under democracy we would call for demonstrations and meetings to attack and criticize the regime. If we are permitted to do this we will be able to bring him down by democratic means. If he does not allow it then he would force us to resort to revolutionary violence to bring him down.

[Question] How do you assess As-Sadat's reception of the shah in Egypt and what is the Egyptian Nationalist Front's position on this matter?

[Answer] It is a kind of insane behavior that we have grown accustomed to see in As-Sadat. He always gives false and unacceptable justifications. We condemn such behavior because we absolutely do not accept a person who has been kicked out by his entire country and by all other countries of the world. We are ashamed that of all the states in the world only Egypt and Israel [as heard] have accepted him. It is really disgraceful. It puts us in a very bad light. Naturally we condemn this attitude and we consider it insane, although it does give us a weapon to use against him.

[Question] Where does the Egyptian Army stand?

[Answer] I have said that it is a part of the imperialist plot to get Egypt out of the battle. Removing Egypt from the battlefield is the beginning as far as imperialism and Zionism are concerned, because with Egypt out of the battle and its army intact, if As-Sadat falls at any time the army would remain. So, with Egypt out of the battle they want to weaken the Egyptian Army and armed forces. This is because when As-Sadat's regime falls the new leaders would be faced with new problems, with the problem of rebuilding and strengthening the Egyptian Army. So there is a premediated plan to weaken the armed forces. At a time when all the forces in the Arab region are beginning to be stronger than they were in 1973--all the Arab states and Israel--in Egypt there has been a reversal of that trend.

Egypt is the only country in the area where the armed forces strength is diminishing. The fighting capacity of the Egyptian Armed Forces is now half or less than half what it was in 1973. This could even get worse if more time elapses. This is why we must speed up the downfall of this regime.

[Question] The religious trend was listed as one of the political signatories of the document [of the front]. What do you mean by the religious trend, and is there a connection between the front and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt?

[Answer] The Muslim Brotherhood has not joined the front. By the religious trend we mean that there are numerous organized and [word indistinct] forces which raise religion as a slogan. We consider religion an essential part of the nationalist movement. Religion cannot be separated from the mind and makeup of the individual whether in Egypt or in the Arab region. We are not at all against any religious grouping so long as it expresses its aims and aspirations in a nonviolent way.

[Question] What is your opinion of the U.S. armament of Egypt after peace with Israel, and what are its objectives?

[Answer] The question is wrong, I am sorry to say. It is wrong. It shows us the importance of concerted propaganda that the United States is giving arms. It also shows us that we Arabs have taken the bait and believe that the United States is giving arms to Egypt. The United States is giving Egypt jeep cars, transport planes, trucks, pistols and such things, but not the main fighting weapons, and if it gives any of the latter it does so in small doses so that at any time it could stop. What arms has the United States given Egypt so far? The contract for 35 Phamtom planes is over 3 years ending in 1982. The ordinary average consumption of the armed forces is 50 planes a year. Therefore, 35 planes over 3 years is below average consumption. Furthermore, who says they will give F-16 planes? I do not discuss matters that do not exist. When they decide to give F-16 planes then we will talk.

This matter has to be passed by Congress and so on and so forth. It will be a different matter when it happens and yet, we say, let us assume that they will give them. What good will it do when the United States gives As-Sadat 16 or 20 F-16 planes so he could stand up and say I have F-16 planes? Israel has 200 of these planes now. Well, so what? What does it mean when you have 20 and the other side has 200? At no time can he hit and destroy them. In actual fact the United States is not giving Egypt arms and does not wish to make Egypt a policeman. This is a misconception. They let As-Sadat put his military uniform on so he could say I am a policeman. Of course this does not cut ice with anyone with any sense. With these weapons he may be able to fight a third class state. He could go to Zaire and I do not know where. In neither Israel nor the neighboring Arab states are the arms in such a state as this. Our neighbor Libya, with a population of two or three million, has better arms than the arms in the hands of the Egyptian Armed Forces of the 40 million people. So do not fall into this Western information trap and the claim that they are giving Egypt lots of arms.

[Question] You spoke of two solutions, democracy and violence. Does this mean that there is a wager on democracy or on the possibility of democracy in Egypt? What are the foundations you seek for the first solution?

[Answer] You are presupposing. No, we do not at all believe that he will accept the democratic solution. In this case he would be giving us the opportunity and taking the responsibility. We are requesting that we bring him down under democracy because we can do it. He says there is democracy. So we will try this with him.

[Question] What is the role of Arab oil in supporting As-Sadat?

[Answer] I want to say one thing very clearly. The motto of the Egyptian Nationalist Front is that it will accept absolutely no Arab interference in its affairs. In return we do not wish to interfere in the affairs of any other Arab country. Every Arab country is completely free to direct its policy. We are not trustees for anyone. Our relations with the Arab regimes are governed by two things only. The first is the extent of the hostility of an Arab regime or state to As-Sadat's regime and the second is the extent of support an Arab state gives the Egyptian Nationalist Front.

OPPOSITION LEADER CRITICIZES U.S. IN AL-WATAN

LD021137 Kuwait KUNA in English 1025 GMT 2 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, April 2, (KUNA)--A prominent Egyptian opposition leader called Wednesday for an end to the armament race and the removal of foreign bases and fleets from the Middle East as a pre-condition for turning this region and Southwest Asia into a zone of peace.

Leader of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Khalid Muhyi ad-Din urged all Arab forces to utilise their potential and cooperate with friendly world powers to drive the U.S. out of the Arab world.

In an article published by AL-WATAN newspaper today, the NPUG leader said he will present a work plan to his party in Cairo on April 10 on the 4th anniversary of its foundation.

He criticized the American policy on the Middle East and called for an international conference to settle this problem in which all parties concerned, including the Soviet Union, should participate.

He clarified that holding such a conference requires changing the balance of power in the region, but, he added, such change would be strongly opposed by "American imperialism and its agents and we should be prepared to confront external invasions and interventions."

Muhyi ad-Din believes that Western European countries and Japan "do not want the world detente to fall a victim to the American dreams of dominating others" and he supported his claim by referring to the recent French stand recognizing the right of the Palestinian people of self-determination and creation of an independent state under PLO leadership.

He added that the West European countries' support of the French stand has led to the isolation of the American policy on Mideast.

The Egyptian leader said that President Carter's administration's retraction from supporting a security council resolution calling for dismantling of the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories has exposed the fake American stands towards Islam and Muslims.

He urged all religious forces in the region to learn a lesson from the American stand and said that the future of the Middle East region could be ensured through cooperation of all forces opposing imperialism and Zionism.

FOREIGN MINSTRY ANNOUNCES RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH SUDAN

JN021629 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 2 Apr 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Apr--The Iraqi Government decided today to restore diplomatic relations with Sudan at ambassadorial level.

A Foreign Ministry statement issued today said that the decision to restore relations came in response to the desire of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan to resume diplomatic relations with the Republic of Iraq. The statement pointed out that Sudan decided to sever relations with Iraq at the end of last April.

It will be recalled that a Sudanese envoy had earlier handed President Saddam Husayn a message from President Ja'far Numayri.

The message contained Sudan's approval of the national declaration announced on 8 February.

SADDAM HUSAYN GIVES SPEECH AT PUBLIC RALLY ON 1 APR

JN021711 [Editorial report JN] Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic at 1200 GMT on 2 April carries the 35-minute speech delivered by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn at the public rally held in the town of As-Suwayrah in Wasit province on 1 April.

President Saddam Husayn begins his speech by saying that foreign news media accuse us of "ruling the Iraqi people with steel and fire," but this only shows how ignorant they are of the Iraqi people and the basic changes which have taken place since the July revolution. The Iraqi people are now ruled by "leaders of their own flesh and blood," he says.

President Saddam Husayn adds that overwhelming public support has made him confident that "the Iraqi people are capable of facing any arrogant world power which tries to undermine their sovereignty, dignity and honor."

President Saddam Husayn says: "Honest Iraqi citizens have come to me and to comrade members of the Revolution Command Council to say: We are worried about you. And, when we asked them why, they say: We are worried about you because the big powers are treacherous. I say: These big powers have definitely not seen your faces. They have definitely not read your faces to know you better. They simply imagine things. Brothers, we tell them once again from this place, from beloved As-Suwayrah; we tell them as we have told them before; we tell them with vehemence that whoever wants to try his luck with us and the Iraqi people, let him come."

The Iraqi president adds: "Brothers, we tell the big, medium and small powers in your name that the Iraqi people do not want to antagonize any country unless that country antagonizes them or unless that country contemplates violating the sovereignty of our people, or humiliating our nation, or undermining the sovereignty and honor of our nation."

The president asserts: "We do not want to antagonize any country in the world, but whoever wants to antagonize us, whether big or small, will find us ready for him. We do not fear anyone except God Almighty. In your name, brothers, we say: Whoever wants to antagonize Iraq and the Arab nation will find us like spearheads ready to fight him. We will always be a thorn in the side of the aggressors. We will not relent, God willing, in the service of principles and the great Arab people."

President Saddam Husayn concludes his speech by discussing road conditions in As-Suwayrah and the housing crisis in the country and pledging that solutions will be found soon so every citizen will have a home.

PRESIDENT VISITS SCENE OF GRENADE INCIDENT 2 APR

JN021347 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Apr 80 JN

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has affirmed that the blood shed in the criminal deed in Al-Mustansiriyah University yesterday will not go in vain. On a visit to the Al-Mustansiriyah University this morning, the president said that yesterday's cheap and vile deed is characterized with a cravenness that is not linked to the homeland in any way. They perpetrated it on behalf of their masters, thinking that through such petty and vile deeds they can shake your revolution's determination and march forward.

The president affirmed that the criminals and their masters are insignificant and cannot influence the will of the great Iraqi people and Arab nation. He said: Iraq has become a lofty mountain that cannot be shaken with their bombs or other attempts.

The full text of the president's speech will be broadcast in our next newscast.

Address Given

JN022135 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Apr 80 JN

["Text" of speech by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn at Al-Mustansiriyah University in Baghdad on 2 April--recorded]

[Excerpts] Brother students of Al-Mustansiriyah University: As you know, yesterday a vile attempt unrelated to the homeland in any form took place. If perpetrators thought on behalf of their masters that by such petty and mean acts they can shake your revolution's determination and march forward, [applause] of course, we as well as you know that the criminals and their masters are so insignificant that they cannot influence the will of the great Iraqi people. They and their masters are so insignificant that they cannot influence the will of the great Arab nation. By means of their deeds they want to disrupt your lively interaction, serious determination and march ahead in defense of the nation's honor and territory against foreign usurpation, headed by the Zionist usurpation.

They want, as they see in their imagination, to rob the revolution of its high spirits. This revolution is getting loftier in its march forward, not only for the Iraqis alone, but also for all the militant Arabs in the larger Arab homeland.

Yesterday, dear drops of blood were shed by the young men and women of Al-Mustansiriyah. [applause] The crime was committed by a small agent called Samir Nur Ghulam. This Ghulam and his masters imagined they could do something important and of impact. We tell all the foreigners, masters of colonialism, who believe they can harm your revolution to try because the people of Iraq have become a high mountain that cannot be shaken by their bombs or their [word indistinct] attempts. [applause]

The agents have won one Samir Nur Ghulam and they may also find 10,20,100, 500, 1,000, 2,000, 5,000 or 20,000 weakwilled persons, but there remain 13.5 million people. This is a large figure that is greater than all their attempts and can fight them in defense of the honor of the land, mission and principles. [applause]

Some time ago in Tehran, a foreign ambassador talked to our ambassador. He told him: Take care about those because they hate you. Take care of yourself. Another ambassador answered him saying: Who are you talking to, the Iraqis? The Iraqis dance on the wings of death. [applause] Yes, brother Iraqis and Arabs everywhere. [applause] Yes, brother Iraqis and Arabs in a Al-Mustansiriyah University and everywhere on the land of Arabism. Yes, the Iraqis dance merrily on the wings of death because it is under the principles of the July revolution that they understand life and their mission in life. When their mission requires them to dance on the wings of death merrily and joyfully, they will do so.

It is not our tradition to make threats, but we tell you by God, by God, by God and in the name of every particle of earth in Iraq that the pure blood that was shed in Al-Mustansiriyah University will not go in vain. [applause] In your name, brothers, and on behalf of the Iraqis and Arabs everywhere we tell those cowards and dwarfs who try to avenge Al-Qadisiyah [battle fought in Iraq between the Arabs and Persians at the beginning of the Islamic age] that the spirit of Al-Qadisiyah as well as the blood and honor of the people of Al-Qadisiyah who carried the message on their spearheads are greater than their attempts. We also tell them that the mission carried out by the Arabs 1,400 years ago on behalf of the heavenly values on earth makes the Arabs more capable of carrying the mission's spirit after 1,400 years on this holy land for the sake of the Arabs and all mankind.

If they read well your faces, they will stop such vile attempts because they pay a heavy price for them. The Iraqi people find ecstasy in them because the few drops of blood shed in Al-Mustansiriyah turn into glowing torches in the service of the great principles along the path of liberating the Arab nation's territories and preserving the Arab dignity everywhere. [applause] There is no need to stress to you that the principles you hear and read about daily confirm that we shall carry on along our path to serve the Iraqis and Arabs everywhere. We shall be drawn swords for them and will continue along the path with our souls and blood so that the Arab nation's will will triumph everywhere; so that the banner of the Arab revolution will be lofty everywhere and so that the banner of revolution will be raised high in Iraq.

INFORMATION MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON INTERNAL SITUATION

LD0211159 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 29 Mar-6 Apr 80 pp 15-18 LD

[Interview with Syrian Minister of Information Iskandar Ahmad Iskandar given to Huda al-Murr in Damascus--date not given]

[Excerpts] Following the recent wave of explosions in Damscus and the bloody incidents in Aleppo and Hamah which compelled the Syrian authorities to send military reinforcements to northern Syria, well-informed observers in the Syrian capital told AL-MAJALLAH that "what is happening in Syria is closely linked to what is happening in the area and is due to Syria's stand whether with regard to its opposition to the Camp David agreements or to preventing the partitioning of Lebanon and removing it finally from the Arab-Israeli confrontation. Therefore, those who are behind the events taking place in Syria are the same people behind Camp David and the conspiracy against Lebanon."

In an exclusive interview with AL-MAJALLAH, Syrian Minister of Information Iskandar Ahmad Iskandar said in reply to questions: "Syria is the target of a U.S.-Israeli plan in which As-Sadat and all those in the Arab area whom the United States can enlist are taking part. This plan aims at the following: changing the political stand of Syria which rejects the policy of surrender and the abandonment of the Palestinian Arab people's rights. In order to implement this plan, the United States and all those collaborating with it are trying to create many difficulties for Syria. These difficulties include political pressure, Israeli military concentrations on Syria's borders, and encouragement of murder and terror inside the country. The purpose of all this is to intimidate Syria and drag it into the Camp David agreements. The purpose of such intimidation is also to preoccupy Syria with its own problems and prevent it from playing its national Arab role. It is with this goal in mind that certain parties are moving, thinking that circumstances are suitable and that Syria is weak. I would like to affirm here that Syria is not frightened by such intimidation of pressures regardless of their form and from which quarter they may come. No power in the world can make Syria deviate from its course or give up its principles and rights or foresake a single inch of the occupied Arab territories."

Asked about what is being reported in the Syrian and Arab circles regarding the Israeli military buildup on the borders, Minister Iskandar Ahmad Iskandar said: "Because of its racist and expansionist nature Israel poses a threat to the Arabs. We have been in a state of war with Israel for many years. This state of war still exists. What strengthens the Israeli leaders' expansionist and aggressive inclinations is the unlimited supply of U.S. arms and various other kinds of aid. It is also strengthened by As-Sadat's defeatism, surrender and compliance with Israeli orders. All this has enabled the Israeli leaders to act arrogantly and to think that they are capable of achieving what they were unable to achieve previously. Consequently, they are concentrating their forces on our borders and making hostile statements preparatory to launching an attack on Syria. In the face of this I can affirm that the Syrian Arab Republic is prepared to face all eventualities. If Israel commits any foolish action it will then reap the fruits of its foolishness."

[Question] Is there a plan on the horizon as an alternative for Camp David since the steps toward implementing it have faltered and there have been differences of views over it? Why has the conference of steadfastness and confrontation not been held so far?

[Answer] Such a plan was put forward from the beginning when the Arab kings and presidents held the ninth summit at Baghdad at which two matters were decided: First was the rejection of the [Camp David] agreements in view of the harm they cause to the Arab national interest and because they constitute a departure from Arab unanimity and a betrayal of the pan-Arab interests. Secondly the conferees decided to shun the agreements and whatever results from them.

What was agreed upon at those meetings is in itself the alternative plan, but the claim that the Camp David agreements have succeeded and that the normalization of [Egyptian-Israeli] relations is progressing is rejected and is misleading because the Camp David agreements, according to the views of their originators, were supposed to include all the Arab area and not just Egypt and Israel. The fact that these agreements have stopped at the Egyptian-Israeli borders is an evidence of their failure.

With regard to the idea of the conference of steadfastness and confrontation this idea is still current and contacts are being held in order to fix the date and place of this conference. We are striving to hold it. There are no obstacles or anything of the sort. But any conference at the summit level must take into consideration the leaders' working engagements and to reconcile them with the date and place of the conference.

PALESTINIANS CABLE SUPPORT TO CONFRONTATION FRONT LEADERS

JN311345 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Mar 80 JN

["Text" of 31 March cable from the Palestinians in Aleppo, Syria to the leaders of the pan-Arab Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation states]

[Text] Your excellencies, leaders of the pan-Arab Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation:

Our Arab Palestinian masses, who are gathered in Aleppo on the anniversary of Land Day, the day of mass indignation and of adherence to all of the homeland's territories, announce their denunciation and rejection of all forms of Zionist suppression, occupation, confiscation and settlement; and their support of the stand whose first trench is embodied by the Syria of revolution, under comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, and of the Palestinian revolution, through political and military support against Zionism, imperialism and reaction, which are represented by the Camp David accords and their organs.

Our masses support the stand of confrontation of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, through the formulation of programs intended to bolster confrontation and steadfastness and to increase the ability to abort this imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught and its organs in the region.

We call upon the Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation to convene its fourth conference in order to formulate the practical steps for confrontation.

Long live the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front as a strategic front that supports the Palestinian revolution and its people's steadfastness. Long live the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. May glory and immortality be the share of our people's and nation's innocent martyrs.

IRAN'S KHALKHALI ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT 2 APR

JN030604 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 3 Apr 80 JN

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, member of the Iranian Revolution Council, arrived in Damascus last night at the head of a delegation on an official visit of several days to Syria. He was received at Damascus international airport by Minister of Awqaf Muhammad Muhammad al-Khatib, the assistant Awqaf minister, Awqaf ministry senior officials, a number of ulemas and a number of PLO representatives.

BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL RECEIVES DPFLP LEADER

JN021943 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Apr 80 JN

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received at 1830 this evening Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP]. Salih Ra'fat and Qays Samarra'i, members of the DPFLP Political Bureau, also attended the meeting. Discussion during the meeting centered on the Palestinian situation in particular and Arab developments in general.

TISHRIN CRITICIZES INTERNAL GROUPS' REJECTION OF DIALOG

JN020947 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 1 Apr 80 p 8 JN

["Behind the News Column" by Jubran Kuriyat: "Why Are They Running Away From National Duty?"]

[Excerpts] In its pan-Arab struggle against imperialism and Zionism and in its efforts to achieve the Arab nation's pan-Arab objectives, Syria requires a strong internal front, unshakable national unity, solidarity among all patriotic, progressive and pan-Arab forces and its citizens' willingness to shoulder their responsibilities in the battle for liberation and construction.

Such an internal front is necessary to achieve development on the domestic front and to consolidate political, social and ecnomic gains. It is also necessary to increase support for Syria's pan-Arab role and its effectiveness in the Arab nation's battle against imperialism and Zionism.

The Syrian command, which is shouldering the burden of the pan-Arab struggle against the Camp David conspiracy and the capitulatory and defeatist courses in the Arab homeland, is well aware of the internal front's important role. That is why it has alloted much of its attention to providing a suitable atmosphere that will bolster national unity, expand cooperation among national and progressive forces and consolidate popular unity.

The imperialist enemy has found that the exploitation of certain loopholes and negative aspects on the internal front, through its reliance on terrorist and criminal gangs and on black reaction, which dreams of a return to power, will enable it to confuse Syria and divert if from the pan-Arab struggle. This is why the enemy has entered the battle from the inside.

There is no doubt about the connection between the struggle Syria is waging against imperialism and Zionism and the conspiracy against Syria's internal front.

What is surprising in this battle is that some of the groups that stand with the external provocateurs and black reaction raise "leftist," "pan-Arab","unionist," "democratic" and "extremist" slogans.

What is even more surprising is that these groups or groupings note the Syrian regime's small faults while overlooking the much greater faults of the regime or regimes that are inciting them.

These groups are rejecting a constructive and positive dialog and refuse to participate in the struggle against local and outside enemies, thus placing themselves, in practical terms, on the same side with those for whom imperialism and Zionism wish success in their conspiracy against the Syrian homeland and Syria's pan-Arab role.

We believe that Syria has never before had such a foundation for wide national and progressive accord. Therefore, any abstention from participation in achieving this accord and in entering a dialog to find the best methods for its success cannot be considered as expressive of good intentions, especially if all of this is accompanied by contacts with parties that are conspiring against Syria and are shirking the responsibility of the battle against imperialism and Zionism.

AL-ASAD CABLES CONGRATULATIONS TO ROMANIA'S CEAUSESCU

JN291315 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Mar 80 JN

["Text" of cable of congratulations from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to Romania's Nicolae Ceausescu on his reelection as president--date not specified]

[Text] I have received the news of your reelection as president of the Socialist Republic of Romania with great pleasure. It pleases me to send your excellency our most sincere congratulations on the occasion and our wishes for your success in your noble responsibilities and in the service of your country. Please accept my wishes for your good health and for happiness for the friendly people of Romania.

AL-ASAD CABLES CONGRATULATIONS TO IRAN'S BANI-SADR

JN312025 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Mar 80 JN

["Text" of cable of congratulations sent by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr on the first anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Iran--date not given]

[Text] I avail myself of the opportunity of the celebrations held on the occasion of the first anniversary of the proclamation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to send to you and to the friendly Iranian people, in my name and on behalf of the Syrian Arab people, sincere congratulations and warm greetings.

I would also like to express to the Islamic revolution in Iran, under the leadership of Ayatollah Mosavi Khomeyni, our best wishes for more success and achievements to strengthen Iran's liberation course.

On this occasion I would also like to stress my confidence that relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries and peoples will continue to develop to serve our two peoples and to strengthen their common struggle against Zionism, imperialism and their agents.

Please accept our best wishes for health and prosperity for yourself and more development and progress for the Iranian people.

'PLOTTERS INFILTRATE UNIONS, SCIENTIFIC SECTORS'

JN311748 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Mar 80 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] When our people, with all their toiling, struggling masses, arose to confront the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary onslaughts both internally and externally, they knew the size and dimensions of the onslaught and its partners' motives. The partners in the onslaught hated to see the revolutionary Syria, the progressive Syria which enjoys national unity, build its social life in order to secure for its people a prosperous life and an atmosphere of liberty and national unity in their loftiest and noblest forms.

Thus, the plotters searched for hirelings, so exploiting the atmosphere of democracy and liberty enjoyed by the citizens here. Accordingly, they came across a handful of malicious, reactionary plotters, who relinquished national values and severed all ties linking them with the homeland. Indeed, they do not support the homeland. Rather, they are gluttons who are primarily concerned with their suspect associations with the partners of the imperialist-Zionist plot against the Arab nation and masses.

Some of these hireling plotters managed to infiltrate the ranks of scientific sectors and professional unions and collaborated with the plotters in order to achieve the objectives of the dirty plot, so exploiting their unionist status and the atmosphere of liberty and democracy.

However, our people, will all their toiling, struggling masses, will not allow reaction to misinterpret the revolution's magnanimity and the atmosphere of democracy, which it allowed during the national dialog, and to continue to plot against the revolution and its toiling masses through various means and fabricated slogans.

Indeed, reaction made a great mistake in misinterpreting the revolution's democracy, legitimacy, preservation of the sanctity of the toiling masses' struggle and protection of these masses' achievements, since the revolution is capable of crushing the masses' enemies and making them understand clearly and in such a way that they will not be allowed to provide their misinterpretations, that any attempt to harm the security of the homeland and citizens and the toiling masses, their revolution and aspirations are concerned.

Reaction has shown its true colors at one time, thus exposing itself as a cheap hireling organ manipulated by the enemies of the nation and people, an organ of sabotage, murder and destruction. Indeed, reaction believes that with the support of its masters in Washington and Tel Aviv, it can carry out its dirty practices--which culminated in murdering innocents and scientists and destroying and burning the people's institutions--and subjugate the people to their plot, which is represented by the Camp David accords signed by the hireling As-Sadat. However, the revolution, with its toiling masses and revolutionary and progressive elements, is well aware of the role played by the hireling, treasonous reactionaries and is exerting efforts to confront the plot in a decisive way.

ALGERIA

PRESIDENT BENDJEDID RETURNS FROM ARAB TOUR

LD022037 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Apr 80 LD

[Excerpt] Chadli Bendjedid, the president of the republic and secretary general of the party, returned this evening to Algeria after a 12-day tour throughout the Arab homeland. The brother president, who was accompanied by an important delegation, was welcomed on arrival at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by members of the Political Bureau and the government, as well as senior party and army officials.

IRAN'S AYATOLLAH KHALKHALI DEPARTS 2 APR

LD022056 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Ayatollah Khalkhali, member of the Iranian Revolution Council and former president of the Revolution Court, left Algeria this morning. He was seen off by the minister of religious affairs, light industry and finance.

During his short visit to Algeria, which coincided with the first anniversary of the declaration of the Iranian Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Khalkhali met members of the Iranian community in Algeria. He also had talks with the president of the Supreme Islamic Council and a member of this council, 'Ali al-Maghribi. The talks dealt with the problems of Islam and the Islamic world.

LIBYA

'IMPORTANCE OF STEADFASTNESS SUMMIT RECOGNIZED'

LD030918 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli--The JANA political editor has denied the report put out by QATARI NEWS AGENCY (QNA) on Monday that Libya informed Syria that it would not attend the steadfastness and confrontation summit or any other meeting of the states of the Tripoli charter called by the PLO. The editor said that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah firmly recognizes the importance of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation and regards it as a struggling organization which expresses the aspirations of the Arab masses in their struggle against capitulation and defeat, the American solutions and the Zionist aggression.

The editor added that Libya is an Arab country which embraces all Arabs, and from this principle it does not believe that the arrival of any Arab constitutes a problem. Hence it welcomes the arrival of Yasir 'Arafat, in his capacity as an Arab, at any time.

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT CONCLUDES VISIT, DEPARTS

LD021623 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1545 GMT 2 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli--Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this afternoon at the end of his visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The Algerian president was given a popular sendoff.

MAURITANIA

FINANCE MINISTER DEPARTS FOR IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA

AB021455 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 2 Apr 80 AB

[Text] Mr Ahmed Ould Zein, minister of economy and finance, left Nouakchott yesterday for Iraq and Saudi Arabia with messages from Col Khouna Ould Haydala, president of the Military Committee for National Salvation, head of state and government, to his Iraqi and Saudi counterparts. These messages touch on bilateral cooperation between our country and those two brother countries.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEADS DELEGATION TO PARIS MEETING

AB021457 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 2 Apr 80 AB

[Text] Our delegation to the French and African ministerial meeting scheduled to take place in Paris, left Nouakchott yesterday for the French capital. This delegation includes the director of cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the director of finance in the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Our delegations to that meeting will be headed by Mr Mokhtar Ould Zamel, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

MINISTER OF INTERIOR ANNOUCES ARREST OF 'ACTIVISTS'

AB021830 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 2 Apr 80 AB

[Text] A group of activists existing for many years has just been discovered and will undoubtedly stand trial. The commander of the gendarmerie, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation and minister of the interior announced this in a declaration to newsmen. In this declaration, he notes that the law will be fully and rigorously carried out against anyone found guilty of breaking it. Let us now listen to what he stated.

[Begin recording] Dear fellow citizens, when the armed forces, in response to your pressing appeal, took over in (?July) 1978, they committed themselves to [words indistinct] to redressing the economy, and handing over power--when the moment arrives--to a freely and democratically elected president. It is a fact that restoring peace must not only be external; it must above all prevail domestically. Given this, you will easily understand that anyone, an individual or group of individuals [words indistinct] must be rendered harmless, because in the face of the great task of social reforms now necessary, and the huge task of economic recovery, wasting our energy of contradictions of minor importance appears to be a betrayal of our dear fatherland and can only serve the egotistical interests of the enemies of our people [words indistinct]

Indeed, you are assured of individual freedom, and equality of all before the law. Nevertheless, this freedom and this equality require of you certain obligations which I cannot explain just now, because they cover (?many fields). In other words, "yes" to freedom and equality, "no" to anarchy and subversion. Therefore, the government will both suppress the latter and guarantee the former.

In this connection, we will hand over to justice a group of activists existing for years now and who have just been discovered thanks to the vigilance of the (?security) service and [words indistinct]. In any case, trying to go beyond one's rights is mere speculation, if not subversion, because the government is considering the granting [words indistinct] and social reforms affecting both the principle of our (?sovereignty) and the demands of historical evolution in particular concerning the structures for man's (exploitation) by man. Those who work toward this end must join forces with us. They must think of national construction [passage indistinct]. By so doing they will be in compliance with the law and will also accomplish their duty to the nation.

Dear fellow citizens, the era of [word indistinct] is now over. The law will be carried out with the required strictness and we think the situation will be checked. [passage indistinct]

MOROCCO

TRADE MINISTER RECEIVES SOVIET AMBASSADOR FOR TALKS

LD311508 Rabat MAP in French 1100 GMT 31 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Rabat, 31 March 80--Mr Azeddine Guessous, Moroccan minister for commerce, industry, merchant fleet and sea fishing, received Mr Yevgeniy Nersesov, Soviet ambassador in Rabat, on Saturday. Talks with the Soviet diplomat covered various aspects of economic cooperation between the two countries, particularly sea fishing and trade. Mr Guessous underlined the ways and means likely to further develop this cooperation notably the setting up of joint companies.

The ambassador mentioned the forthcoming meeting of the Moroccan-Soviet intergovernmental commission. Matters related to this body are to be discussed by officials from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Merchant Fleet and Sea Fishing and Soviet officials in the course of preliminary meetings due to be held in the near future.

Meanwhile, with a view to giving substance to the cooperation provided for by the fishing agreement linking the two countries, it has been decided to send [to Moscow] a Moroccan delegation of officials from both the public and private sectors dealing with sea fishing.

MOROCCO 'MORE PREPARED THAN EVER' FOR DIALOG WITH ALGIERS

LD011203 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 23 Mar 80 pp 1, 3 LD

[Ahmed Alaoui editorial: "Returning to the Spirit of Ifrane To Restore Peace in the Maghreb"]

[Excerpts] At the moment there is a great deal of talk about various initiatives to restore peace in the Maghreb. For instance a number of leading Europeans from all the different political and spiritual groups have just launched an appeal to this end.

It should be remembered that it was Algiers, in collusion with Spanish colonialism, which set up a pseudoliberation movement, and that it deported several thousand inhabitants of the Sahara to Tindouf to create a false problem with false refugees. It was the Algerian Government which organized the guerrillas, trained, armed, equipped and financed them with the help of Libya and with aid from the Soviet Union to provide them with large amounts of arms.

Since then all attempts which have been made to reach a peace settlement have been doomed to failure owing to Algiers' refusal to negotiate. Therefore [apparent line drop] European, African or American politicians and heads of state to realize the serious nature of the situation and the absurdity of this fratricidal conflict--a serious conflict not only on the Maghreb plane but on the international plane. Algiers and Rabat maintain close links with the great powers and a direct confrontation between the two countries is likely to engender an explosive situation and a general conflict.

It should also be pointed out that the peace initiatives which emerged have come from sincere friends of the Maghreb who maintain good relations with both Morocco and Algeria, who realize that this war is ridiculous and that every effort must be made to stop the conflict between two countries and that everything should serve to reconcile. Destined by geography, history and a common culture and religion, they should join forces and, with the building of the Maghreb, undertake a great task whose foundations were laid at the Tangiers conference shortly after independence.

This conflict thwarted this great plan, this ideal, and that is why leading figures from all countries and heads of state are stepping up their initiatives to bring about peace.

As His Majesty King Hassan II has always said, Morocco is particularly anxious to restore peace since it is the country which has suffered the attack. It is Morocco which is bearing the burden of this conflict and it is still prepared to negotiate. That is what the king reiterated to France on the program facing the public:

"I know that I am prepared to go and negotiate at any time because my case has been prepared and it is sound," the king said. "I am ready to negotiate for peace in the Middle East just as I am ready to negotiate for peace in the Maghreb because in both cases, as a Moroccan and an Arab, my case is very strong."

Questioned on the solution he envisages, his majesty the king said:

"I have my ideas on that subject but I am determined not to discuss them with anybody. I must tell you what I always say: I am keeping it to myself."

Morocco has indeed always been the victim--in 1963 and in 1976--although it has always shown fraternity and active solidarity toward Algeria. It has never done anything to be ashamed of.

That is why it has welcomed all initiatives to restore peace. But Algiers has avoided or rejected them with equal consistency.

Today Morocco is more than ever prepared to agree to a meeting and to dialog between the two heads of state with a view to restoring peace. It is all the more eager to do so since it is strong on the political plane. In other words, it is sure of its fundamental rights, on the international plane and on the military plane since, as his majesty the king has said, we have control in the field.

We are therefore in a strong position to negotiate on the basis of respect for our territorial integrity and we think that the best framework for this solution is to return to the spirit of Ifrane and the Algerian-Moroccan statement in Rabat on 15 June 1972.

President Bendjedid took part in the negotiations which led to the signing of the Ifrane treaty. He is, therefore, well acquainted with the problem.

In 1972 the ninth OAU summit recognized these documents, which made it possible to settle the dispute between the two countries and to overcome the problem of borders, which became borders of fraternity, in order to lay the foundations of an age of detente, understanding and cooperation between Morocco and Algeria.

SUDAN

VICE PRESIDENT MEETS VISITING YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL

JN301502 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 30 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 30 March--Meetings of the third session of the Joint Sudanese-Yugoslav Ministerial Committee will begin here this evening. Vice President ar-Rashid at-Tahir met today with Molovan Zidar, Yugoslav Federal Executive Council member and head of the Yugoslav delegation to the Joint Ministerial Committee meetings. During the meeting, the two officials discussed bilateral relations and current African and international issues of common interest. The two sides expressed satisfaction over their identical views.

VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVES LIBYAN AMBASSADOR

JN021503 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 2 Apr 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 2 April--The Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Assistant to the President for Coordination ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr today received Libyan Ambassador in Khartoum 'Abd al-Wahhab az-Zintani.

During the meeting, bilateral relations were discussed and the Arab issue reviewed in light of the latest developments in the Arab nation.

TUNISIA

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BENDJEDID ARRIVES IN TUNISIA

LD021628 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid this evening arrived in Tunis on a working visit, during which he will hold talks with President Habib Bourguiba.

He was welcomed at Tunis-Carthage international airport by the minister of national education, who is in charge of coordinating the affairs of the government with the president of the republic, Mohammed Mzali; Speaker of the National Assembly Sadek Mohhadem; and members of the government and the party Political Bureau.

Talks Held

LD021940 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Apr 80 LD

[Excerpts] Talks between President Habib Bourguiba and President Chadli Bendjedid began at 1635 this afternoon at the Carthage Republican Palace in the presence of Mrs Wasila Bourguiba.

At the end of this plenary session, another working session was held between President Habib Bourguiba and President Chadli Bendjedid, and attended on the Tunisian side by Mohamed Mzali, and Habib Bourguiba Jr; and on the Algerian side by Mohamed Siddik Ben Yahia. This meeting ended at 1720, after which Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and the accompanying delegation left the Republican Palace.

Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid left Tunis at 1800 this evening.

POLITICAL CIRCLES, PRESS REACT TO EGYPTIAN RESOLUTION

TA021127 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 2 Apr 80 TA

[Text] Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports on the Israeli reaction to the resolution adopted by the Egyptian People's Assembly:

Jerusalem political circles are reacting with utmost restraint to the resolutions adopted by the Egyptian People's Assembly. In an announcement formulated following consultations with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir--an announcement being published now--it is stated, among other things: At this time, when Israeli, Egyptian and U.S. representatives are working to find a way to establish the autonomy in the territories, as agreed upon in the Camp David accords, declarations of the sort made by the Egyptian People's Assembly are not unpractical and contradict the Camp David accords, but they do not aid these fragile negotiations either.

It should be noted that the prime minister explained Israel's position regarding Jerusalem to President Carter in a letter he sent to the U.S. President on 17 September 1978, after the Camp David summit. In his letter, the prime minister emphasized that East Jerusalem was no longer an integral part of the West Bank.

Jerusalem was not amazed by the latest declarations from Cairo. The Egyptian parliament expressed--just as the media did previously known Egyptian positions. These declarations should be regarded within the framework of a general public relations policy designed to prepare the ground for the meetings to be held by the U.S. and Egyptian presidents and the Israeli prime minister this month.

At these meetings Mr Begin will explain that Israel is determined not to discuss the future of East Jerusalem within the framework of the negotiations on the establishment of the autonomy. The prime minister will emphasize that Jerusalem will never be partitioned again.

An effort will be made now to formulate a joint reaction of the Knesset factions' representatives to the declarations emerging from the Egyptian parliament.

Press Comments

TA020630 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 2 Apr 80 TA

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] Several papers editorialize this morning about the UN Security Council debate on the Palestinian issue.

HA'ARETZ states: Even if we assumed that the initiative is premature and that Western elements sympathetic to it would rather wait until after 26 May, we had better not make light of the potential of the current offensive at the United Nations. The initiative could fail now and thus award us with an additional period to examine our political line. Perhaps we will also be able to sigh in relief this weekend. However, we would be mistaken in believing that by driving away this offensive we have solved our problems.

DAVAR writes that the deferment of the debate at the UN Security Council is not the result of a brilliant Israeli policy or of successful coordination between Jerusalem and Washington. In addition, one should not infer from this development that the PLO's prestige has decreased. The United Nations will not establish a Palestinian state. However, other active forces in the world will continue to strive for it.

The Jerusalem POST is of the opinion that it would be very wrong to believe that this debate will not resume. It is clear that a storm will explode if no progress has been made in the negotiations on the autonomy by 26 May. In fact, such a development may occur even earlier if the prime minister decides to change the legal status of the territories.

'AL HAMISHMAR says Mr Begin is trying to create the illusion of a legal guarantee ['aruva mishpatit] for the settlements. Instead of acting against the threat posed by the establishment of a PLO state, the government is occupied with futile attempts to assure the existence of the settlements. If there is any chance to dispel the threat inherent in the establishment of a Palestinian state, it is through readiness to solve the problem and not by means of transient legislative actions.

HATZOFE writes about the Egyptian Parliament resolution condemning Israel's settlement policy. The newspaper states that the resolution is a grave one because of its timing, its content and its severe formulation. The resolution points to Cairo's goals in future talks on the autonomy and arouses fears to the effect that it will try to dictate the nature of the negotiations and present demands contradictory to the Camp David accords.

Call for Rejection

TA030953 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 3 Apr 80 TA

[Review of midday press editorials]

[Excerpt] YEDI'OT AHARONOT writes that if Israel does not vehemently reject the Egyptian Parliament's decision regarding Jerusalem, a new situation might emerge out of partial or tacit approval. The newspaper is of the opinion that joint opposition to the Egyptian decision should be mustered among all the members of the Knesset. However, if this is unfeasible, YEDI'OT AHARONOT suggest that the government reject at once the Egyptian demand on the issue of Jerusalem.

Egyptian Resolution, UNSC Debate

TA030628 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Apr 80 TA

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] The Egyptian Parliament's decision on Jerusalem draws more angry comments.

The English-language Jerusalem POST says the peace process has been very badly hurt. The paper concedes that although there are differences among Israelis with regard to Jerusalem all are agreed that the city must remain united and Israel's capital. Within such a dispensation, the Jerusalem POST says, there should be room enough to satisfy the legitimate national and religious rights and asperations of Arabs as well as Jews. Not merely all persons, as Egypt's Parliament vaguely proposes, but specifically Muslims and Christians along with Jews must have free access to their holy shrines, as in fact they do today and they did not between 1948 and 1967. A great majority of Israelis, regardless of politics, will not accept the thesis that because Jordan took East Jerusalem illegally, by force, in 1948 and raised the old city's Jewish quarter the absence of Jews there has somehow become an Arab right. A commitment to recover that sort of sham right, the Jerusalem POST says, is a bid to reverse the peace process.

According to the National Religious Party's HATZOFE, the more Israel withdraws from Sinai the more the Egyptians make it apparent that their basic animosity toward Israel remains unchanged. Israel has officially rejected the Egyptian Parliament's resolution, HATZOFE says, but this in itself can do nothing to dispell Egypt's nefarious intentions.

The left-wing MAPAM's 'AL HAMISHMAR turns its attention to the Security Council debate on the Palestinian question. It says that Western Europe is still trying to signal to Israel that unless it shows more flexibility a Palestinian state is a distinct possibility. The Israeli Government's frigidity, says 'AL HAMISHMAR, makes it easier for the country's enemies and accentuates Israel's isolation in the world.

MA'ARIV: EGYPT HOLDING SECRET CONTACTS WITH PLO LEADERS

TA031014 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Apr 80 p 17 TA

[Uri Dan commentary: "Egypt Is Holding Secret Contacts with the PLO]

[Text] Egyptian representatives are holding contacts with PLO leaders in Beirut, Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, parallel with the autonomy negotiations Egypt is conducting with Israel.

In spite of the differences of opinion and mutual recriminations, both sides are attempting the keep open channels of communication behind the scenes. Cairo is trying to convince the PLO leaders that it intends to coordinate the autonomy negotiations with them, on the one hand; and, on the other, influential Egyptian personalities believe that at least some of the PLO leaders, even in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, are not opposed--unofficially, at least--to the way in which Egypt is conducting the negotiations, since it is being intransigent over maximal demands.

The man in the Cabinet who is pressing most for "moving toward Egypt" is Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. "My position on the autonomy is at least like that of Dayan....." Weizman is in the habit of saying. Weizman's renewed threats to resign should also be regarded in the framework. Just as the minister of defense made several threats to resign in 1978, when Prime Minister Menahem Begin refused to give in to the Egyptians' demands in the difficult negotiations and his threats weakened Begin's position in the negotiations, so Weizman's threats to resign are now again creating pressure on Begin over the autonomy question.

Up to now, Begin has refused to surrender to pressure concerning any further concessions on this issue. One of his confidants told me: "The prime minister is having a bitter struggle against three elements that have joined together: Egypt, the United States and Israeli personalities who have reached full agreement among themselves that concessions must be made on the autonomy issues, and this is making matters very difficult for Begin...."

MA'ARIV EDITORIAL REACTS TO LINOWITZ, STATEMENTS

TA030914 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Apr 80 p 5 TA

[Editorial: "The Threat and the Condition"]

[Text] It is extremely doubtful whether the government of Israel really has any plans for new settlements over the next 7 weeks, up to 26 May. Nevertheless, the government replied in the negative to the U.S. Government's request to declare a "moratorium" on settlements up to that date.

On the surface, the government could have granted that request by the U.S. Government, but anyone today reading the remarks made by Ambassador Sol Linowitz can find a justified explanation for Israel's refusal. Ambassador Linowitz disclosed that he convinced the representatives of the European countries to postpone presenting the Security Council with a proposal to change Resolution 242 until 26 May, and we get the impression that he tried to make a "package deal" with the European countries: They postpone presenting the draft resolution, while Israel would guarantee to postpone the settlements.

The U.S. Government made specific commitments to the government of Israel, in writing, in two memorandums of agreement, to prevent any change in 242. The United States made these commitments in the framework of the interim agreement with Egypt (1 September 1975) and the peace agreement with Egypt (26 March 1979). The Camp David agreement is based upon Resolution 242. Any change in this resolution would damage the foundations of the Camp David agreement and cut away the groun from under the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, to which the United States is a signed guarantor.

The United States' duty to vigorously oppose and prevent changes to 242 does not depend on the date 26 May. This is an unequivocal commitment, not connected with the results of the autonomy talks, nor with any initiative by the European countries.

The "heavy" hint that Israel's situation will become more difficult if the European initiative is presented to the Security Council as a result of a failure of the autonomy talks will certainly have an opposite effect from that planned by Ambassador Linowitz. If President Carter's special ambassador intended to hint that we can no longer rely on written commitments we received from the United States concerning the prevention of any changes in Resolution 242, then this is a grave warning about the nature of the other U.S. commitments we received in return for the risks we took in withdrawing from Sinai.

If the United States wishes to advance peace in the Middle East, it must reaffirm to us to all those involved that it is abiding by its commitments, not only those regarding full autonomy, but also its vigorous opposition to changing 242 and to Israel's security.

The U.S. commitments are an inseparable part of the peace image. Any attempt to threaten Israel with a European initiative must be rejected out of hand. This threat contradicts the U.S. commitment to repel any such initiatives.

HA'ARETZ PREDICTS BEGIN STRATEGY ON U.S. TRIP

TA021055 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Apr 80 p 9 TA

['Uzi Benziman commentary: "These Are the Stars of the Trip"]

[Text] If you would like to know the results of the talks Begin and Carter will conduct in 2 week's time, go to the prime minister's office and examine the list of the group that will acompany Begin on his trip to the United States. The plan is that the prime minister will be accompanied by his wife, his personal physician and his assistants: Yehi'el Qadishay (the director general of the prime minister's office), Efrayim Poran (the prime minister's military secretary) and Dan Patir (the prime minister's adviser on communications and foreign press).

The composition mentioned above indicates that the prime minister imagines the Washington meeting as an occasion during which he will hold several tete-a-tete talks with President Carter. The composition of the entourage seems to be a signal to the White House that the prime minister does not intend to hold a political conference or to conduct detailed bargaining over autonomy problems. Begin views the trip to Washington as an opportunity to hold general talks with President Carter on the status of the autonomy negotiations.

If the prime minister intended to conduct substantive political discussions with Carter he would have included in his entourage additional people who deal with the autonomy negotiations, such as Dr Yosef Burg, Interior Ministry Director General Hayim Kubersky and the foreign ministry's legal adviser Ruth Lapidot. Had he wanted to give his trip the character of diplomatic negotiations he could have included Foreign Minister Shamir and taken advantage of the visit to allow him to meet with U.S. administration leaders.

However, Begin intentionally desires to stamp his U.S. trip with a different character. He sees the meeting with Carter as an opportunity to make surveys, to express his views and to listen to the U.S. President's assessments, but not to hold practical discussions, not to reach any practical conclusions. According to the prime minister's conception, the urgent invitation Carter extended to him is intended to give them both the opportunity to conduct general talks on the state of the autonomy negotiations (the prime minister is certain to sweep into a discussion of the entire Middle East situation) and not to make efforts to rescue Israeli-Egyptian contacts from the danger of stalemate.

Mr Begin's entourage is entrusted with well-defined tasks. The presence of his wife and physician needs no explanations. His office director is entrusted with the usual duties he discharges anywhere as the personal assistant who is at the prime minister's disposal day and night. Brigadier General Poran accompanies the prime minister on all his trips to insure constant contact with and updating by the Israeli security services. Mr Patir, however, is assigned an active role on the trip: He is in charge of developing the organizational infrastructure for the public relations campaign the prime minister wants to conduct in the United States.

With all due respect, none of the five companions enjoys any status or role in the talks Mr Begin is to conduct with President Carter. None of them has any real link to the autonomy negotiations (except for Mr Patir, who serves also as the spokesman of the ministerial committee for the autonomy).

President Carter may adapt himself to the rules of the game set by the prime minister, and may face Begin on his own terms too.

Whether he does so or holds talks with Mr Begin with the participation of his assistants (Brzezinski? Vance? Linowitz?), it is clear that when the U.S. President presents his positions he will be backed by a sophisticated mechanism meticulously adept in the complicated negotiations maze and prepared to raise alternative solutions for the problems arising.

This ratio of power will neither surprise nor deter Mr Begin. He feels he is capable of challenging the U.S. argument on his own, not only because of the results of the New York and the Connecticut primaries, but primarily because he does not intend to bargain or argue.

The prime minister is leaving for Washington to hear the U.S. President's views and to explain to him his ideas on the shape of autonomy (administrative council only), the reasons for the difficulties in the negotiations (Egyptian deviations from the Camp David accords) and the correct meaning of these accords (granting limited autonomy to the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el living in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip). Even if President Carter surprises Begin with an irresistable proposal, Begin will claim he cannot answer it on the spot and he should consult the government first.

This is Begin's conduct on the eve of accepting President Carter's invitation to visit Washington and at a time when Jerusalem officials and ministers believe the opposite approach had best be adopted. They believe the time left until 26 May, as well as President Carter's reelection distress should be used to complete the autonomy negotiations with success and under the best terms (in their estimate) for Israel.

They believe that continuing beyond the "target date" without achieving significant progress in the political contacts and that delaying the major decisions until after the U.S. Presidential elections will put Israel in an inferior position in the negotiations and will impose on it a worse agreement than is now possible.

STRIKES BEING HELD IN NABULUS, RAMALLAH, AL-BIRAH

TA020910 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Apr 80 TA

[Text] This morning there is a commercial and school strike in Nabulus, Ramallah and Al-Birah. There were also school disruptions in Bethlehem. Roadblocks were placed at the entrance to Hebron in order to prevent members of Gush Emunim and residents of towns in the West Bank from attending rallies in the city.

WEIZMAN MAY RESIGN OVER SETTLEMENT STATUS LEGISLATION

TA020658 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Apr 80 p 1 TA

[By A. Kinarti]

[Text] If the Cabinet accepts Begin's recommendation to guarantee the legal status of the Judaea, Samaria and Gaza settlements through legislation that will create legal facts, Defense Minister Weizman may resign from the Cabinet. This has been learned from circles close to the defense minister.

It has been learned that Weizman fears an undesirable and harmful legal solution on the issue of the status of the territories as a result of the pressure of Gush Emunim and several ministers and Knesset members. Weizman will view things even more gravely if a decision on this issue is made by the Cabinet on the eve of the prime minister's departure for Washington.

It has been learned that before the Passover festival the defense minister said in private talks that he expects nothing "in this Cabinet" and that someone else in his position would have resigned from the defense minister's post long ago.

According to the same source Weizman said recently that he may have to take the decisive step regarding his continued participation in the Cabinet. It has been learned that the ties between the prime minister and the defense minister have weakened over the last few months and that today they are maintaining only official relations.

BOTSWANA'S KHAMA READS DETAILS OF LUSAKA SUMMIT PROGRAM

LD021058 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1558 GMT 1 Apr 80 LD/CA

[Address by Botswana President Sir Seretse Khama, chairman of the economic summit of southern African states, at Mulungushi Hall in Lusaka--live]

[Text] [Words indistinct] Southern African development coordination conference. Today in a historic summit meeting, leaders and representatives of the nine independent countries of southern Africa made a joint declaration of their strategy for a closer integration of their economies. This marks a new commitment to coordinate their economies so as to accelerate their development and reduce their dependence on the Republic of South Africa. The leaders approved a program of action which included:

The creation of a southern African transport and communications commission based in Maputo.
Measures to control foot and mouth disease in cattle throughout the region.
The preparation of a food security plan for the region.
The establishment of a regional agricultural research center specializing in drought-prone areas.
Plans for harmonization of industrialization and energy policies.
Sharing of national training facilities within the region.
And studies leading to proposals for the establishment of a southern African development fund.

The summit agreed that a meeting of ministers should be held in Zimbabwe in September 1980.
The summit agreed that an international donors conference should be held in Maputo at the end of November 1980.

The summit requested the Government of Botswana to examine the need for institutional mechanisms for overall coordination of the program. Meanwhile the government of Botswana was given responsibility for taking immediate follow-up action until appropriate institutions have been established and are operational.

Copies of the printed declaration will be available at the information desk in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after 1000 tomorrow, Wednesday 2d April. This is for the benefit of the press. [applause]

Thank you very much gentlemen. I don't have anything to say. I don't wish to spoil anything. I am told that this conference has been very successful under my able chairmanship. [laughter]

Prime Minister Mugabe has to (?wrap) it all up, and we are all very pleased indeed that it went off so well. I am certain that the foundations have been well put and this venture will succeed. I thank you very much.

Declaration Adopted

LD021059 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Apr 80 LD/CA

[Text] Heads of state and government attending the southern African development coordination summit have adopted and accepted the Lusaka declaration toward economic liberation.

The leaders from Botswana, Tanzania, Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Swaziland have also accepted the program of action for the achievement of economic liberation in the region. Sources close to the summit said the heads of state have charged Botswana with the task of considering the proposals of establishing a ministerial council committee of experts and a secretariat to spearhead the implementation of the program of action. The heads of state also agreed to meet in Zimbabwe in September to study Botswana's recommendations.

According to the sources, Mozambique has been charged with the responsibility to undertake the transport and communications commission and will be required to call for a meeting within 3 months on the establishment and operations of the commission. The Botswana Government will be responsible for the control of foot and mouth disease. This will include the undertaking of detailed feasibility studies with the help of the European Economic Commission, EEC, a regional control of the desease including the expansion of production of a Botswana vaccine to meet the needs of the region.

Zambia, according to the program of actions, will undertake the responsibility leading to proposals for the establishment of a southern African development fund, while Swaziland will be responsible for the manpower development commission. The Swazi Government will be required to carry out a review of existing training facilities in the region and make recommendations for better regional utilization of facilities. The newly independent state of Zimbabwe will prepare a proposal for a southern African food security plan, while Tanzania will prepare for a strategy for the harmonization of regional industrialization program. The source said the Angolan Government will be responsible for the regional energy conservation plan.

ETHIOPIA

BULGARIA'S KUBADINSKI ARRIVES FOR COOPERATION TALKS

LD011543 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1030 GMT 1 Apr 80 LD/EA

[Excerpt] A high-ranking 10-man Bulgarian delegation led by Comrade Pencho Kubadinski, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, chairman of the Fatherland Front of Bulgaria and chairman of the Bulgarian side of the Bulgarian-Ethiopia joint commission, arrived in Addis Ababa this morning to attend the second seesion of the Ethiopian-Bulgarian joint economic, scientific and technical cooperation commission.

Joint Commission Meeting

LD012011 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 1 Apr 80 LD/EA

[Text] Comrade Lt Col Haddis Tedla, member of the standing committee of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and vice chairman of the National Revolutionary Economic Development Campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council, this afternoon received at his office and held talks with Comrade Pencho Kubadinski, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Bulgarian fatherland front. Comrades Lt Col Haddis Tedla and Pencho Kubadinski discussed the economic links and co-operation between socialist Ethiopia and the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The vice chairman of the Supreme Council and the member of the BCP Politburo also exchanged useful views to promote the successful completion of the Ethiopian-Bulgarian joint economic, scientific and technical cooperation commission meeting opening tomorrow.

Present during the talks were: Comrade Hailu Yimenu, senior minister and secretary general of the National Revolutionary Economic Development Campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council; Comrade Dr Taye Gulilat, deputy secretary general of the Supreme Council; Comrade Muhammad Sharif, Foreign Economic Relations Department chief of the Supreme Council; and comrade (Dilis Habtivo), ambassador of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to Ethiopia.

KENYA

STATEMENT DENIES SIGNING DEFENSE PACT WITH ETHIOPIA

LD021128 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 2 Apr 80 LD/EA

[Text] The government has issued a statement correcting an erroneous report carried out by the SUNDAY STANDARD of last Sunday.

The government statement notes that the report alleged that the ministers for foreign affairs from Kenya and Ethiopia had signed a defense pact between the two countries. Kenya's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has pointed out that no defense pact was signed by the two ministers, as alleged in the SUNDAY STANDARD report.

The statement explained that what the minister signed was a joint communique highlighting the activities and achievements of the ministerial consultative meeting held in Kenya.

Meanwhile, the two countries yesterday signed a protocol trade agreement to facilitate more trade between the two countries.

Kenya's minister for commerce, Mr John Okwanyo, signed on behalf of Kenya, while the Ethiopian ambassador to Kenya, Mr Mengistu Desta, signed on behalf of Ethiopia.

Mr Okwanyo disclosed on the occasion that Kenya has suspended the buying of salt from any other source other than Ethiopia. He called for new avenues of trade to be explored between the two countries, which have long-standing friendly relations. The Ethiopian envoy revealed that Kenya was the only source of his country's import of tea. The signing ceremony was attended by an assistant minister for commerce, Mr Kisiero.

PRESIDENT MOBUTU STOPS IN NAIROBI, SEES PRESIDENT MOI

LD021900 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 2 Apr 80 LD/EA

[Text] President Mobutu Sese Seko arrived in Nairobi this afternoon for a day's stopover on his way home from India. President Mobutu and his party arrived at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport shortly after 1600 aboard Air Zaire. On arrival, he was welcomed by the minister for foreign affairs, Dr Robert Ouko; the Zairian ambassador to Kenya, Mr Citizen Binto Chibolla; the mayor of Nairobi, Councillor Nathan Kahara; and the chief of protocol, Mr Leo Odero.

Later in the evening, President Moi received the Zairian leader at State House, Nairobi. After holding talks on communications and trade between Kenya and Zaire, President Moi took his guest for a walk in the State House gardens.

The Zairian head of state was accompanied by Zairian senior officials of the Popular Movement of the Revolution, Zaire's ruling party. He leaves tomorrow for home. Also present was the vice president and minister for finance, Mr Mwai Kibaka, and several cabinet ministers and assistant ministers.

TANZANIA

WITHDRAWAL OF 10,000 TROOPS FROM UGANDA PROJECTED FOR APRIL

LD021914 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1600 GMT 2 Apr 80 LD/EA

[Text] Dar es Salaam--The first contingent of the Tanzanian troops being withdrawn from Uganda arrived in Tanzania last Monday. Lt Gen Abdallah Twalipo, commander of the Tanzanian People's Defense Forces, said in Dar es Salaam that Tanzania will withdraw half of the 20,000-strong force from Uganda between now and the 16th of this month. He said the troops are going home after successfully training the Ugandan troops who are to replace them. Ndugu Twalipo said that the Tanzanian troops remaining in Uganda will go home after training a large number of Ugandan troops, in accordance with the military agreement signed by the two countries. The Uganda Government had asked for Tanzanian troops to remain to help in defense and security as well as in the training of the nwe Ugandan Army following the overthrow of dictator Amin's regime last year. Ndugu Twalipo said that following the training of a number of Ugandan troops had been successfully completed the two countries had agreed that half the Tanzanian troops in Uganda could be withdrawn.

CAMEROON

AHIDJO PLEDGES CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

AB021722 Paris AFP in French 1526 GMT 2 Apr 80 AB

[Text] Yaounde, 2 Apr (AFP)--The president of Cameroon, Mr Ahmadou Ahidjo, reiterated on Wednesday his call to Chadians to put an end to the fratricidal war.

Receiving the credentials of the new ambassador of Niger, Mr Tahi, the head of state said that it was the time to add Cameroon's voice once again to those of states and organizations which are justifiably worried about the persistant deterioration of the situation in Chad.

Mr Ahmadou Ahidjo called on the authorities and interested parties to put a lasting end to a disastrous and fratricidal war in a state whose inhabitants have suffered too much and in a nation which only wishes for a final reconciliation and reconstruction. It is reassuring to note the similarity of the preoccupations of the Governments of Niger and Cameroon over the alarming situation in this neighboring brother country, he added.

President Ahidjo then reiterated his firm determination to continue to give fraternal and humanitarian assistance, as far as our own means permit, and in accordance with help received, to refugees in Cameroon territory, as well as our contribution towards finding a peaceful solution to this painful situation.

Appeal for Peace

AB030710 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1830 GMT 2 Apr 80 AB

[Text] The head of state, President Ahmadou Ahidjo has called on all Chadian leaders to put an end to the disastrous war, now going on in the capital, Ndjamena. While receiving letters accrediting the new Niger ambassador to Cameroon, President Ahmadou Ahidjo described Chad as a country whose only aspiration is to achieve reconciliation and reconstruction. The head of state reaffirmed Cameroon's determination to continue to help the people of Chad in Cameroon in a brotherly and humanitarian manner and to contribute to the search for a peaceful and satisfactory solution to the war in that country. Speaking about the Republic of Niger, the head of state, President Ahmadou Ahidjo, lauded the practical course of the government of Col Seyni Kountche to combat drought and promote development in that sister African state. President Ahmadou Ahidjo described relations between Niamey and Yaounde as founded on historic and socio-cultural affinities and on the solidarity of the objectives of national building and the promotion of international cooperation.

Meanwhile the Cameroon head of state has chosen the management committee to cater for the refugees in the northern town of Kouserri. An order from the minister of social administration has established a management committee particularly for the northern province. The bank account for this purpose has been opened with the Associated Bank in Yaounde. The Cameroon president has expressed the hope that other heads in Africa and national organizations will contribute to the assistance of the victims of the war in Chad. About 100,000 people are reported to have escaped the fighting in Chad into Cameroon.

CHAD

SOVIET DIPLOMATS FLEE TO FRENCH BASE

LD021444 Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 2 Apr 80 LD

[Summary] Fighting intensified in Ndjamena this morning, with Hissein Habre's Northern Armed Forces apparently gaining the advantage. This impression is confirmed by the fact that Chad President Goukouni Oueddei has just sent a written message to the head of the Libyan revolution, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, appealing to him for help. Although the tenor of the message is not known, it is clear that the Chadian president needs reinforcements of men, weapons and ammunition. Another sign of the intensified fighting is the fact that in the middle of the morning the entire staff of the Soviet Embassy in Ndjamena hurriedly entered the French military base in several cars and vans loaded with luggage.

JUSTICE MINISTER LEAVES NDJAMENA FOR PARIS SUMMIT

AB021720 Paris AFP in French 1422 GMT 2 Apr 80 AB

[Text] Ndjamena, 2 Apr (AFP)--Mr Djona Golo, the Chadian minister of justice, left Njdamena this morning on board a French Air Force Transall for Garoua in Cameroon, where he will leave for Paris in order to attend the preliminary meeting of ministers of foreign affairs of the upcoming Franco-African summit to be held in Nice.

Mr Ngolo is replacing Mr Ahamet Acyl, the titular minister of foreign affairs, who is detained by his duties in the vicinity of Ndjamena.

Mr Ngolo belongs to the southern wing of the Chadian Armed Forces (FAT) of Vice President Kamougue. Mr Ahamet Acyl is himself the president of the Revolutionary Democratic Council (CDR), a branch of the pro-Libyan Joint Action Front (FAC). It should be remembered that some armed partisans of the CDR were alleged to be moving towards the south of the Chadian capital concurrently with the FAC who are now at the gates of Ndjamena.

AFP REPORTS SITUATION CHANGES LITTLE IN CAPITAL

AB030801 Paris AFP in English 0651 GMT 3 Apr 80 AB

[Text] Ndjamena, 3 Apr (AFP)--Despite the fierceness of hostilities between the troops of Chad President Goukouni Oueddei and Defense Minister Hissein Habre on the 12th day of fighting here, little change in the frontline of this divided capital was apparent at nightfall Wednesday.

The number of wounded treated at the hospital on the French military base was higher than usual--109 against a daily average of around 60. To date the base hospital has treated 789 wounded, including 121 civilians.

The city's services are paralysed--most areas lack water, electricity and working phones. Administrative offices are deserted, and supplies are scarce. The price of fresh food has doubled.

The French Embassy, which has moved into the base, is the only one left, following the departure yesterday of Soviet, Egyptian and Saudi diplomats. About 100 French civilians are still here, including 20 who have so far refused to leave their homes in the combat zone.

'Final Assault' Reported

LD030936 Paris Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 3 Apr 80 LD

[Excerpt] The war in Chad--According to the doctors remaining in the capital, Ndjamena, the final assault between the forces of President Goukouni and the supporters of Hissein Habre could take place before this evening. According to official figures, 1,500 people have already died and more than 2,000 have been wounded in the fighting.

The French-African conference begins in Paris this morning. Officially, Chad is not on the program, but it is likely that the participants will not be content with discussing economic cooperation. The Chadian justice minister arrived in Paris last night. Moreover, when he got off the plane he stated that there are no Libyan soldiers in Ndjamena.

GABON

NEW GOVERNMENT MEETS; BONGO URGES MEMBERS TO WORK RAPIDLY

AB021525 Paris AFP in French 1629 GMT 1 Apr 80 AB

[Text] Libreville, 1 Apr (AFP)--The Gabonese prime minister, Mr Leon Mebiame, will pay an official visit to Morocco from 14 to 17 April at the invitation of the Moroccan Government, according to a communique published today in Libreville at the end of the first meeting of the new government formed on 27 February.

President Omar Bongo has moreover called on the members of the new government to set to work rapidly so that the period of 6 months given them on 11 March results in concrete projects with regard to the restructuring of their ministerial departments.

The communique adds that the Council of Ministers has moreover accepted that Gabon should welcome the presence of the multinational center for the exploitation of mineral resources in Central Africa, the aim of which is to supply specialized services to countries of the subregion while ensuring the training of adequate local staffs.

GHANA

26 PERSONS REPORTED KILLED IN INTERTRIBAL DISPUTE

AB011600 Paris AFP in English 1519 GMT 1 Mar 80 AB

[Text] Accra, 1 Apr (AFP)--Twenty-six people were killed and 42 seriously wounded during three days of inter-tribal fighting over a chieftancy dispute in northern Ghana, Ghanaian press reports said today.

The fighting began at the weekend after an attempt to establish a traditional chieftain in the Wa district, in northwest Ghana, near the border with Ivory Coast, the reports said.

The nomination of the chief, who had been approved by the region's committee of traditional chiefs, was contested by another contender who took his claim to the National Committee of Chiefs.

Damage caused by the fighting, including homes and stores that were burned, was estimated at three million cedis (about one million dollars), the reports added.

Minister on Problem

AB012050 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Apr 80 AB

[Text] The government says it views with dismay the escalation of the Wa chieftancy dispute, which has resulted in the loss of lives and property. In an official statement, the minister of interior, ProfEkow Daniels, said the government regrets that the advice given by the president a few weeks ago to the disputing factions to exercise restraint pending the final determination of the dispute by the Upper Regional House of Chiefs, has been ignored by the supporters of both parties.

Prof Ekow Daniels assured the public that government will not sit idly by while there is a flagrant violation of law and order in the region. For this reason, he has taken measures to deal with those that have taken the law into their own hands in order to resolve the chieftancy dispute. The minister said he has asked the inspector general of police to take all the necessary steps to protect life and property in the region and restore law and order in the Wa district. In addition, the government has sent an observer team including ministers, MP's and the police to Wa to assess the extent of loss of life and property.

IVORY COAST

COMMENTARY HAILS MUGABE'S POSITION ON SOUTH AFRICA

AB021344 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 0745 GMT 2 Apr 80 AB

[Kone Ibrahim Commentary]

[Excerpts] South Africa is a geographical reality where the whites have the same rights as the blacks. This statement was made by Zimbabwe's prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, during an interview granted to the BBC [British Broadcasting Corporation]. The following is an editorial by Kone Ibrahim:

The saying that in politics, as in life, nothing is more successful than success itself is true. Some of our great men who have achieved great successes will not have to await tomorrow's verdict in order to occupy a choice place in the pantheon of African history. Felix Houphouet-Boigny is creating such African history--calmly, surely and under the incredulous sidelong glances of some backward ideologues, President Houphouet-Boigny challenges, then acts and finally wins. Although our president is aware of the constant attacks by foreigners, let us quote Montaigne and say, he goes forward with the calm assurance of one deeply convinced of the rightness of his views, ignoring those who criticize him. We would not like to quote here the Arab proverb about barking dogs and the caravan.

The real truth about our president was written by a European colleague. The latter said that "the wiseman of Yamoussoukro" is one of the rarest living examples of respect for principles, refusal to compromise and rejection of political conformisms guided by opportunism. The outcomes of the struggles and sacrifices waged by that man are patent. We all know how patient, tenacious and hardworking he is, and history will certainly not deny that Felix Houphouet-Boigny expressed mature ideas and concerns in advance of other leaders.

Today, the clear and providential messages of the president of the Ivory Coast are being echoed by his counterparts, even by those who come from so far away. Through his experiences and his infailable vision, the old man compels respect. He moves hearts and continues to gain the most unexpected support and sympathies. Among the latest to be conquered is Robert Mugabe, a man who, let us recall, is loyal to leftist ideas--but a patriot of Zimbabwe and the prime minister of that country, the man who won a landslide victory. In an interview with the EEC, this man backs the neutral, realistic opinion held by Houphouet-Boigny on South Africa. Mugabe affirms that South Africa is a geographical reality, that the best thing to do with them is to live together.

Will you support an armed struggle in South Africa, Mugabe was asked? No, I will not give my support to such a man," responds this man who knows what he is talking about. Mugabe knows better than anybody that the war does not pay, and this is the very stand our president has been defending for more than 30 years now. Peace, Felix Houphouet-Boigny affirms, will only be effective when it is achieved among all African countries, including South Africa. Nobody can refuse the equality of Africans to the whites living in South Africa, the president adds.

The Lusaka manifesto, approved by everybody, acknowledges this equality of the whites of South Africa. I quote: We are convinced that all those who have settled in the countries of southern Africa are Africans, despite the color of their skin. Of course the policy of apartheid revolts us profoundly, and we strongly condemn it. But there are some truths that hurt and yet no one has the right to elude them when it is the future of whole continent that is at stake.

Apartheid is an internal affair in South Africa that cannot be done away with by force. Besides, despite condemning this very policy of apartheid in South Africa, the Lusaka manifesto acknowledges that no foreign country is entitled to interfere in that country's affairs. This is why the Ivory Coast, through its president, feels that in the higher interest of Africa, all Africans in the current world dominated by violence and hatred should seek peace, and peace can only be achieved through political neutrality.

LIBERIA

GHANA'S LIMANN ARRIVES FOR 2-DAY VISIT

AB011920 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1755 GMT 1 Apr 80 AB

[Text] The new civilian president of Ghana, Dr Hilla Limann, arrived in Monrovia this afternoon to begin a 2-day official visit to Liberia. President Limann was met upon arrival at the James Spriggs Payne Airfield by OAU current chairman, President Tolbert, officials of the Liberian Government and members of the diplomatic corps, the press and the Ghanaian community in Liberia.

Welcoming the Ghanaian head of state in the parlors of the executive mansion, President Tolbert described the visit as an historic one that will further strengthen the friendship between Ghana and Liberia as well as African unity and solidarity.

In response, President Limann described his visit as one of acquaintance with the Liberian president who is now the chairman of the Organization of African Unity. He said he was moved by the very warm welcome accorded him and his entourage by the Liberian people.

Departure 2 Apr

AB021827 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1755 GMT 2 Apr 80 AB

[Text] The Ghanaian president, Dr Hilla Limann, left Monrovia today after his 2-day state visit to Liberia. This morning Dr Limann visited the Ghanaian Embassy in Monrovia where he met with the Ghanaian community in Liberia. He later toured the OAU conference center in Virginia and (Mataoi) housing estate in Sinkor.

Last night, the Ghanaian President and Mrs Limann were dinner guests of President and Mrs Tolbert at the executive mansion. Speaking at the dinner, President Tolbert, who is chairman of the OAU, told Dr Limann that Africans would be satisfied only when the last vestiges of racist minority rule are replaced by the majority government which will foster human dignity.

The Ghanaian head of state praised Liberia for what he called its role in the struggle to liberate Africa and unite the peoples of the Continent.

MALI

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES ECONOMIC COOPERATION

LD021358 Algiers AFS in English 1206 GMT 2 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Algiers, 2 Apr (AFS)--The recent meeting of the Algero-Malian joint commission and the visit of an economic delegation led by Malian foreign minister, Alioune Blondin Beye, will enable the improvement of the commercial exchanges between the two countries; not only as for volume but also in nature, so that to avoid dependence vis a vis the former colonial capitalistic countries.

Thus, once back home, Mr Blondin announced that Algeria is to directly supply Mali with petroleum to increase its capacity of hydrocarbon's stocking.

The Algerian [as received] minister added that the construction of cement factory in eastern Mali, and a landing strip at Timbouctou's airport will be realised by Algeria, which also decided to cede to Mali its shares in the Algero-Malian joint society of road transport (African Society of Transport, SAT) without interrupting its financial and technical aid.

NIGERIA

FINANCE MINISTER REVEALS FISCAL MEASURES FOR 1980

AB311945 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1630 GMT 31 Mar 80 AB

[Text] Details of the fiscal measures by the federal government for the 1980 financial year were given in Lagos today by the minister of finance, Prof Sunday Essang. Under the measures, the compulsory advance deposits for imports will be abolished with effect from tomorrow. In addition, there will be no deposit on day of collection. The government has decided that industrial raw materials and spare parts covered by the approved users scheme, more popularly known as Form M, should be exempted from preshipment inspection, the objective of this is to ensure that industries receive their vital supplies as quickly as possible, thereby eliminating delays which was sometimes inevitable where preshipment inspection is a precondition for shipment. With regard to other items of import not covered by the exemption, suitable directives will be given to the commercial banks to accelerate the speed at which Form M reaches the central bank for processing. The government said that the agreement in connection with the preshipment inspections would shortly be reviewed. This is with a view to involving other internationally reputable firms in the exercise so as to further reduce delay.

On the question of travel allowance for overseas trips, the government said that in view of the rising cost of living the world over, it has decided to increase the amount for adults to 1000 naira and for children under the age of 12 a sum of 500 naira for each child.

The government said that a standard percentage of home remittance allowance for male and female foreigners is not considered justifiable. Henceforth, home remittance allowance for such officers who have not obtained Nigerian citizenship should be 50 percent of net salary.

In an effort to encourage rural banking, the minister said that an investment allowance of 20 percent in addition to the normal initial 15 percent and an annual 10 percent allowance enjoyed by the banks as industrial enterprises, have been approved for them. A bill to give effective incentive will be sent to National Assembly for consideration.

On agriculture, the important import duty on fishing vessels has been abolished in order to bring the concession in line with free import duty on agricultural machinery and equipment. In addition, duty has been removed on paperbag and selected spare parts of the machinery used by the manufacturers.

New items have also been added to the open general licensed imports, among them are stock fish, plastic pipes, ceramic products, insulated electric wire and [two words indistinct].

The government said that the removal of such building materials from import restriction was to facilitate the implementation of the federal and state housing schemes, as well as to encourage the construction of individual owner-occupied houses. There are also a number of measures aimed at giving further protection to local industries; for instance the duty on completely built up vehicles has been increased from 20 to 35 percent.

ASSEMBLY PASSES SUPPLEMENTATY APPROPRIATION BILL

AB020651 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 2 Apr 80 AB

[Text] The president, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, will today in Lagos sign the supplementary appropriation bill of 1.4 billion naira already passed by the National Assembly. The ceremony will take place at the State House, Ribadu Road, in Lagos at 0900. The bill was submitted to the National Assembly by President Shagari about 2 weeks ago. It was sent to the House of Representatives last Friday after the Senate had given its approval. Having completed its task on the bill, the House of Representatives rescheduled its Easter break to take effect from today and end on the 15th of this month.

STATE GOVERNMENTS TO GET FEDERAL LOAN GUARANTEES

AB021104 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 2 Apr 80 AB

[Text] The federal government has come up with a revision of the existing guidelines under which state governments can obtain external loans for development projects. The view is to enable the state governments to obtain federal government guarantee for such loans under certain conditions. This information was given by the minister of finance, Prof Sunday Essang. He stated that his ministry would issue the revised guidelines shortly, setting out the conditions under which the federal government's guarantee could be given.

On inputs supervision, the minister disclosed that the government has decided that industrial raw materials and spare parts covered by the approved user scheme be exempted from preshipment inspection. The objective, he said, is to insure that industrialists receive their [word indistinct] supplies as speedily as possible. Professor Essang emphasized that the government will continue to monitor the price and quality of the import to be exempted from preshipment supervision. He said that the need to promote the airfreighting of special items, such as spare parts, has been realized. Toward this end, he added, his ministry and the Ministry of Commerce will prepare a list of such commodities that could be airfreighted with the quantity and weight allowable.

A breakdown of the 1980 budget by the minister shows that such small scale operators will be allowed a credit expansion rate of 40 percent or 70 percent of their total deposit liability. This allowance however, will be exclusive of government deposits of not more than 6 months maturity. He said for the bigger commercial and merchant banks, loans and advances are to remain at 30 percent. [sentence indistinct]

The minister observed that the rural banking program launched by the federal government about 3 years ago was yielding the desired result. He added that in order to entice the banks to accelerate the pace of their programs, an investment allowance of 20 percent, in addition to a loan of 25 percent of the initial and any allowance enjoyed by banks as industrial enterprises have been approved for them. [as heard]

RADIO COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH GHANA, LIMANN VISIT

AB291138 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Mar 80 AB

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] This history of relations between Nigeria and Ghana is generally believed to date back to the precolonial era. After the colony of Lagos was ceded to the British in 1861 by King Docemo and later became known as the colony and Protectorate of Lagos, it was administered as one entity with the then gold coast, which is now Ghana.

After independence--attained at different times--Ghana and Nigeria faced similar difficulties of establishing themselves as stable nations and, through the experience of their leaders, they overcome the teething problems and soon proved themselves as forces to be reckoned with. The two of them were the moving spirits behind the founding of the Organization of African Unity and played significant roles in the nurturing of the nonalined movement. Besides these political connections, the economic ties between the two countries have also grown over the years. In recent times, an agreement on economic, scientific and technical cooperation was entered into by both nations, and they established a joint commission to insure the implementation of the accord.

The only period of anxiety in the relations between Nigeria and Ghana was during the Busia regime. When many Nigerians were sent out of Ghana, Nigeria did not retaliate but rather pressed for the preservation of all the good things that had bound the two countries together. And when another regime took over in Ghana, the position returned to normal. At the moment, many Nigerians are living in Ghana just as many Ghanaians enjoy Nigerian hospitality. It is against this background that the visit of President Limann should be appreciated.

Only a few days ago, the Ghanaian leader and President Shehu Shagari met in the Ivory Coast, where the two of them joined their colleagues from four other African states for a crucial meeting on the cocoa industry. President Limann was the first to pay a courtesy call to President Shagari. This personal contact is a significant element in the fostering of good will and cooperation between nations and, no doubt, the two presidents will have benefitted from their first meeting in the Ivory Coast.

The visit of President Limann can also provide an opportunity for a review of old agreements and open up new vistas for cooperation in various fields to the mutual advantage of both countries.

PAPER RECOMMENDS BRINGING CHAD FACTIONS TO CONFERENCE TABLE

AB310950 Lagos International Service in English 0890 GMT 31 Mar 80 AB

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The CHRONICLE is very sad about the renewed hostilities in Chad. The paper believes that the current situation in the African country has its roots more deeply in the nonimplementation of the Lagos peace accord on Chadian unity. It emphasizes that the cease-fire arrangement, enshrined in the peace act collapsed because the CAU, under whose auspices the Lagos peace talks were held, did not take steps to insure that the agreements reached in the federal capital by the warring parties were implemented. The CHRONICLE enjoins Nigeria to take it upon herself, once again, to bring those involved in the Chadian crisis to the conference table. This, it says, will reinforce the confidence of other African nations in Nigeria's leadership capability.

SENEGAL

SENGHOR STRESSES NEED FOR AUSTERITY, SAVING ENERGY

AB020950 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 1 Apr 80 AB

[Excerpts] The Cabinet met at 0930 today at the presidential palace under the chairmanship of the head of state. In his address to the meeting, the head of state first of all stressed the importance of discipline and constant attention in the performance of government duties. He also emphasized the need to help insure the success of our economic recovery plan through rigorous savings, especially in the field of energy. The head of state then stressed that it is the duty of everyone to contribute to the success of the economic and financial recovery plan through increased efforts, organization and austerity.

SIERRA LEONE

PRESIDENTS STEVENS, LIMANN DISCUSS CHAD SITUATION

AB011640 Paris AFP in French 1433 GMT 1 Apr 80 AB

[Text] Freetown, 1 Apr (AFP)--The leaders of Sierra Leone and Ghana who have just met in Freetown, have today called for the establishment of a permanent political council for security within the framework of the OAU which would be in charge of settling situations similar to that in Chad.

In a joint communique published at the end of a 2-day visit by the President of Ghana, Dr Hilla Limann to Freetown, the latter and his host, President Siaka Stevens, consider that the setting up of such a permanent body should be examined by the African heads of state and government as quickly as possible. A permanent security council instituted within the framework of the OAU would permit rapid reaction and effective decisionmaking in case of an unexpected situation threatening the peace, security and stability of the African Continent, as has been the case in Chad for more than a week, the communique continues.

Finally the two presidents express their great concern over the deterioration of the situation in Chad and appeal to the parties in conflict, requesting them to cooperate in order to set up an immediate cease-fire.

TOGO

ASSEMBLY APPROVES MEMBERSHIP IN AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS UNION

AB021400 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 2 Apr 80 AB

[Text] The National Assembly yesterday approved Togo's membership in the Union of African Parliaments, UPA. Considering that the objectives of the UPA are in conformity with the basic principles of the constitution of the third republic and the objectives of the Togolese People's Rally and the OAU, the National Assembly approved Togo's membership in the UPA. It congratulated the union's promoters for their action in favor of the consolidation of African unity. It also proclaimed its readiness to work relentlessly for the effective establishment of representative democracy in Africa and the world. The National Assembly also asked its bureau to take steps to insure the membership of our Parliament in other African and international parliamentary organizations whose objectives and principles are in conformity with those of the constitution of the third republic and the Togolese People's Rally. Togo joined the UPA during the organization's fourth conference held in Kinshasa from 17 to 19 March 1980.

ANGOLA

PRESIDENTS STOP OVER IN LUANDA, COMMENT ON SUMMIT

AB011330 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 1 Apr 80 AB

[Excerpt] Presidents Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde, Luis Cabral of Guinea-Bissau and Manuel Pinto da Costa of Sao Tome and Principe, stopped over in Luanda yesterday on their way to their respective countries from Maputo, Mozambique, where they attended the heads of state summit of Portuguese speaking African countries.

Speaking on the objectives of the Maputo summit, President Aristides Pereira said that the meeting made it possible to reinforce not only the (?historical) ties of the struggle for national liberation uniting both our parties and our peoples, but also the struggle for a new form of national reconstruction in our countries. We are as convinced as in the past that we are engaged in a battle, a complex and [word indistinct] battle for our national reconstruction, and we hope our common action will accelerate the (?development) of our respective countries for the progress and happiness of our people, the Cape Verdian head of state also said.

For his part, the Guinea-Bissau president, Luis Cabral, said that during the meeting a general cooperation agreement was signed, and it is intended to serve as the basis for economic relations between the five countries. The general aspect of cooperation was also discussed, not only in the economic field but in the cultural health and agricultural fields as well.

We recall that the five Portuguese-speaking countries; that is, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, and Sao Tome and Principe, met for the first time in Luanda in June last year.

TRADE MINISTER RETURNS FROM GDR, SPAIN, PORTUGAL

AB021136 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 2 Apr 80 AB

[Text] The Angolan minister of foreign trade, Lopo do Nascimento, returned to Luanda yesterday at the end of a tour to the German Democratic Republic, Spain and Portugal. In these countries the minister examined matters aimed at reinforcing bilateral relations with his hosts.

DO NASCIMENTO INTERVIEWED BY MADRID'S EL PAIS

LD030711 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 18 Mar 80 p 4 LD

[Rafael Fraguas 27 March interview in Madrid with Angolan Trade Minister Lopo do Nascimento: "Angola Might Break Off Relations With Portuguese Government"]

[Text] Angolan Trade Minister and former Prime Minister Lopo do Nascimento, who is visiting Madrid at the head of an economic delegation, told EL PAIS yesterday that the Angolan Government might break off relations with the Portuguese Government.

"The Lisbon government is pursuing a policy with respect to our country which implies interference in our internal affairs," the minister said. "Its attitude suggests to us that it has no desire to maintain its relations with Angola, and our government can start right away importing from Spain what it now imports from Portugal and exporting to Spain what it now experts to Portugal."

According to the 39-year old politician, who is a member of the Angolan Labor Party Central Committee and considered one of the strongest men in the present Luanda government, the structure of Angolan-Portuguese trade makes it possible to change partners very quickly. "We are adopting a wait-and-see attitude, but the maintenance of relations depends more on Lisbon's attitude than on ours," Lopo do Nascimento said. "It is we who sign the checks and not the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] organization leaders, with whom the Portuguese Government has maintained contacts and to whom government media give broad coverage in Portugal," he added.

Lopo do Nascimento came to Madrid to explore the scope for cooperation between the countries, accompanied by a delegation which also includes the Angolan fishing minister, who tomorrow will sign a framework fishing cooperation agreement between Madrid and Luanda.

The Angolan minister said that his government's main objectives are to strengthen the military situation in southern Angola "to make Namibia's independence viable"; the economic reconstruction of the country, which was devastated by the civil war following the November 1975 declaration of independence; and the expansion and strengthening of the structure of the state and the single party Popular Movement for the liberation of Angola-Labor Party.

Mr do Nascimento said that harassment by the UNITA guerrilla organization led by Doctor Savimbi in areas in the south of the country has not stopped. "UNITA is an extension of South Africa and the Pretoria government is using it in a bid to destabilize Angola. Furthermore, South Africa is trying to diminish our support for the South-West African Peoples' Organization [SWAPO], which is fighting for Namibia's independence. Although UNITA itself is harassing SWAPO with daily attacks in our country and in Namibia (South Africa), they will not achieve their aim."

"We are not afraid of South Africa's nuclear weapons," he said, "but we are concerned--as are many other African countries--about its warlike policy." Lopo do Nascimento said that his country's domestic situation is stable and denied that Angola has altered its political course since Agostinho Neto's death last September. "Changes of personnel do not imply changes of policy. We are following President Neto's guidelines and the line drawn up by our party. Angola is not undergoing a transition following Neto's death, but rather experiencing his political continuity."

As for Angolan domestic topics, the minister said that in his country the stagnation of private enterprise has contributed nothing to economic development and that his government is therefore encouraging private enterprise.

With regard to its neighbors, the former Angolan prime minister described relations with Zaire--which have now taken specific form mainly in the transport and banking fields--as excellent and said that though in his opinion "the PRC's foreign policy conflicts with the interests of socialism," this "will not prevent us from having economic relations with China. The Angolan market is not the monopoly of any one country."

With regard to the situation in Zimbabwe following the election victory by Robert Mugabe's Patriotic Front, Lopo do Nascimento stressed that formulas for an internal solution such as those represented by Abel Muzorewa "have failed, as has every kind of neocolonialist solution." He also emphasized that despite the criticisms usually made of guerrilla movements, the example of Zimbabwe highlights the maturity and political capability of leaders of the Mugabe group and of the other sectors combating Ian Smith's regime.

Next he stressed that the example of Zimbabwe "clearly shows that one cannot exclude from politics the groups which have helped bring independence to Zimbabwe or any other country. This is what some people are trying to do with Namibia's SWAPO, in order to resolve the Namibian problem. This organization cannot be excluded, since any solution to the problem depends on SWAPO."

He also said that the Zimbabwe issue has emerged at a complex moment, but that it permits one to nurture optimistic hopes. He rejected the possibility of a future political regression and said that "everyone wants this African country to become a center for peace."

As for Angola's ties with the Soviet Union and Cuba, Do Nascimento said that the aid which his country receives from them "is quite considerable, especially in the military and civil fields; with Cuba it is very great in areas such as health, education and construction," though he declined to cite figures for this aid.

The minister also announced that his country will continue as an observer at the Lome conference, whose recent resolutions it will study in detail.

MADAGASCAR

FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER MARCHAIS ARRIVES

AB011950 Paris AFP in French 1540 GMT 1 Apr 80 AB

[Text] Antananarivo, 1 Apr (AFP)--The secretary general of the French Communist Party, Mr Georges Marchais, arrived on Tuesday in the Malagasy capital at the head of a delegation of that party.

At the Ivato International Airport, Mr Marchais told the press that he had come to Madagascar at the invitation of the Malagasy president, Mr Didier Ratsiraka. Our talks will enable us to make our meeting an important moment in the solidarity between the Malagasy and French peoples, and an important moment in the struggle against imperialism, Mr Marchais stated.

Speaking against French imperialism, which he said was particularly active in the Indian Ocean and in Africa to which a special role has been assigned within the framework of the general interests of imperialism, Mr Marchais reiterated that France has recently intervened in the Central African Republic, Zaire, Chad and in the Sahara and that she has military bases in Djibouti, on Reunion and in Mayotte and is militarily occupying the Malagasy Islands of the Mozambique canal and she is noted for constantly opposing any claims from her former colonies.

We have come to Africa to let another voice be heard, that of the French workers who are behind the people of Africa, Mr Marchais said, adding that his visit will strengthen the old bonds uniting the French Communist Party and the democratic, progressive and revolutionary forces of Madagascar. This strengthening of bonds is a necessity in a world where imperialism seeks with increased aggressiveness to oppose peoples' liberation movements.

Mr Georges Marchais, who is staying in Madagascar for the first time before leaving for Mozambique on Friday, was met at the airport by a strong delegation comprising four members of the Supreme Council of the Revolution including the senior member Mr Charles Ravoajanahary, two members of the government, notably Mr Christian Remi Richard, minister of foreign affairs and two members from the president's office.

MOZAMBIQUE

RADIO SAYS LUSAKA SUMMIT FURTHER ISOLATES S. AFRICA

LD021202 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 0400 GMT 2 Apr 80 LD/CA

[Station commentary]

[Text] At the beginning of the Lusaka summit conference of nine African countries, President Kenneth Kaunda pointed out that the economic success of the nine countries would have an epoch-making impact in South Africa. It will deal a mortal blow to the policy of apartheid. The rulers of South Africa would be well advised to think carefully about this declaration, because it was not made lightly. The reforms proposed by the South African Government over the last year show that their prime minister, P.W. Botha, and his supporters are aware of the dangerous position in which they have found themselves. What they have not shown is the political will to extricate themselves.

The South African regime can now see its economic stranglehold over other countries in southern Africa being loosened, and it is viewing this development with some consternation.

And it is not surprising. Six short years ago, Pretoria could count on the buffers which it controlled or dominated economically all the way to the Zambezi. The Zambezi was the dividing line between South African domination and independent Africa. Alas for South Africa, that situation is no more. Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe are free. Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland, which only a few years ago were universally regarded as South African hostages, are now able to pursue a policy of increasing economic independence. Malawi, also very recently locked into the South African orbit, is broadening its horizon.

All these countries, plus Tanzania and Zambia, have been sitting around the conference table in Lusaka, planning the future of what President Kaunda called Africa's new economic front. Dr Kaunda said that this new economic front should be used to forge new weapons and to work out a new strategy and tactics for fighting poverty and improving the quality of life of people in this region of Africa. A few years ago, this would have been considered a dream. Today, the steadfast fight of Africa for the decolonization of the Continent has created the conditions for the realization of this dream. Now it is within our grasp, and the dreamers today are those who sit in Pretoria, working out plans for a constellation of southern African states dominated by the apartheid regime.

Their dream, unlike ours, will not be fulfilled. The whole tide of history is against them. The way ahead is clear for those who wish to see South Africa rejoin the community of nations and take part as an equal in the development of southern Africa and an end to apartheid. As President Samora Machel said last month, the day apartheid is ended in South Africa is the day Mozambique will propose the admission of South Africa to the Organization of African Unity.

It will also be the day South Africa extricates itself from an internal situation filled with fear, suspicion and hatred. The Lusaka summit has increased South Africa's isolation and has paved the way for the economic development of nine African states. Cutting the links of dependency on South Africa will not be done overnight, but a start has been made, and, as President Kaunda said, when the effects are felt, a mortal blow will have been dealt to the policy of apartheid.

NAMIBIA

TANJUG REPORTS NUJOMA INTERVIEW ON CURRENT SITUATION

LD012004 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1738 GMT 1 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Salisbury, Apr 1, (TANJUG)--President of the liberation organization of Namibia, Sam Nujoma, has expressed readiness to work towards reaching agreement with the occupying South Africa Republic and other parties concerned. The Southwest African People's Organization (SWAPO) is ready to sign a truce as a step towards the agreement which would also imply elections supervised by the United Nations, pointed out Nujoma in an interview to the Salisbury daily "the HERALD."

UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim has just announced that the application of the world organization's plan for holding elections in Namibia will commence on June 15.

If the South Africa Republic and the frontline countries fail to act promptly, the chances for peace in Namibia may be lost, warned Dr Waldheim.

Prior to this, South Africa chief administrator for Namibia Dr Gerit Viljoen suddenly announced in London that his government may negotiate directly with SWAPO and the front-line countries if the present mediatory peace initiatives fail. Up to now, the government in Pretoria has been stubbornly refusing direct negotiations with SWAPO which was recognized by the UN, the nonaligned and the Organization of African Unity as the sole legitimate representative of the people of Namibia.

PARTY LEADERS VIEW UN SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS

LD031103 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 2 Apr 80 LD

[Text] The chairman of the DTA [Democratic Turnhalle Alliance], Mr Mudge, says it is clear that his target date of 15th June for the implementation of the United Nations' proposals on South-West Africa the secretary general of the United Nations, Dr Kurt Waldheim, is trying to evade the conditions and questions put to him [as heard]. He says that in this way Dr Waldheim is also trying to force the people of South-West Africa into an election. Mr Mudge says such [word indistinct] action will not be accepted by the DTA. He says the DTA stands by its decision that there must first be finality on those points on which there is still no clarity before it takes part in an election.

Referring to yesterday's statement in London by the administrator general Mr Mudge said it would be clearly understood that the administrator general had not recommended talks with SWAPO. He says Dr Viljoen had merely indicated the alternative if the negotiations with the Western five were unsuccessful. Mr Mudge says this alternative was negotiations with which the political parties would include SWAPO [as heard].

The publicity secretary of the NNF [Namibia National Front], Mr (Rugambo), says Dr Waldheim's announcement is welcomed. He says his party has accepted the settlement plan and the demilitarized zone, and is therefore ready for the implementation of the international settlement plan.

Referring to Dr Viljoen's speech in London Mr (Rukoro) said it was an interesting development and the idea could only be welcomed. The SWAPO secretary for labour, Mr Solomon (Mpika), said Dr Waldheim's target date of 15th June was a step towards a peaceful settlement in the territory. On the administrator-general's statement Mr (Mifima) said South-West Africa would regard this as a search for a peaceful solution. The leader of AKTUR, Mr A.H. du Plessis, said he would rather not comment at this stage.

RHODESIA

OFFICIAL OUTLINES INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION PROGRAM

LD031041 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1614 GMT 2 Apr 80 LD/CA

[Text] Preparations for the celebration of independence, now just over two weeks away, are well in hand. "Newsreel" asked the chairman of the independence celebration committee and minister of the public service, Mr Richard Hove, to describe what has been planned at the main venue, Rufaro Stadium, on the eve of independence:

[Begin Hove recording] The public, that is, the invitees, because people are going to go to Rufaro Stadium by invitation, will be expected to get to the stadium from 1800 hours. There will be entertainment in the stadium starting at about 1930, and going on to about [words indistinct] 11, when the VIP's and the VIP start coming in. The president-designate and the prime minister will arrive about ten minutes to eleven. They will be followed shortly by Prince Charles.

At zero zero hours the ceremonies will start, with the lowering of the Union Jack and the raising of the new Zimbabwe flag. Immediately thereafter there will be a fanfare of trumpets for a national song, followed by a 21-gun salute, and that will be followed immediately by the swearing in of the president and the prime minister. Then there will be speeches, with Prince Charles reading the speech from her majesty he queen, and our president replying to this speech. Then another speech read by Lord Carrington on behalf of the British prime minister, with our prime minister giving a reply. Thereafter, there will be a number of activities, including a march-past by armed forces. And thereafter there will be a massed bands display and then Prince Charles and the president will ride around the stadium, followed by Lord Carrington and the prime minister, followed by Governor Soames and Lady Soames. And that will signify the end of British rule to this country. [end recording]

Celebrations and flag-raising ceremonies have also been planned at more than 50 centres throughout the country.

GDR Excluded

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[Christopher Munnion Salisbury dispatch: "Mugage Snub for Pro-Nkomo East Germans"]

[Text] East Germany has not been invited to attend Zimbabwe's independence celebrations on April 18, an humiliating diplomatic setback.

Through Lord Soames, the governor the Zimbabwe African National Union [Patriotic Front] party of Mr Mugabe has invited the Soviet Union and most Eastern European Communist nations.

The notable omissions are East Germany, Poland, and Czechoslovakia.

East German pique at what is seen as a calculated snub was manifest yesterday.

Party officials would not comment, but it is known that in the last few years of the Guerrilla war Mr Mugabe became increasingly disillusioned with East Germany's exclusive commitment to the ZIPRA [Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army] forces of Mr Joshua Nkomo.

East Germany supplied ZIPRA with modern weapons when the guerrillas of Mr Mugabe's ZANLA [Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army], who were doing most of the fighting, were desperately seeking up-to-date arms.

Bad blood between Mr Mugabe and the East Germans persisted despite the latter's close involvement in the training and equipping of the national army of Mozambique, where ZANLA forces were based.

The Soviet Union also backed Mr Nkomo; and, although Moscow has been invited to Salisbury, the level of Russian diplomatic representation in Zimbabwe after independence will be "very limited" according to party sources.

Mr Mugabe's "favoured nations" include Bulgaria, Rumania, Albania and Yugoslavia.

Another notable omission from the independence invitation list is South Africa. It seems, however, that trade links with South Africa will be retained.